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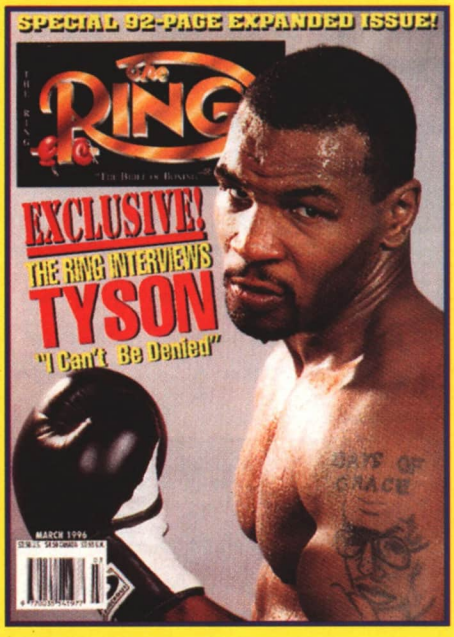

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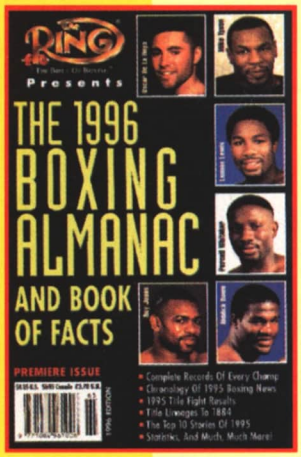

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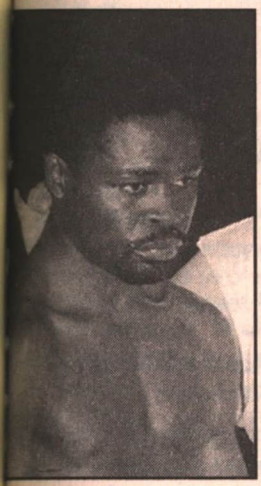

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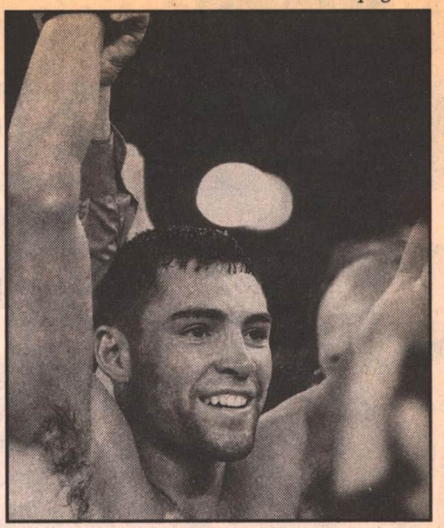

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RINGSIDE

If I had my druthers, Evander Holyfield would never fight again. Nor would Roberto Duran, Larry Holmes, George Foreman, Thomas Hearns, and a half-dozen other veterans who seem intent on tempting fate. Of course, Holyfield couldn't care less what I think. But he might find it interesting that unlike so many of my colleagues, I'm not that quick to shred his proposed matchup with Mike Tyson.

As we went to press, the Nevada State Athletic Commission was about to consider Holyfield's application for a license. The last time the five commission members voted on Holyfield was a few months after his title fight loss to Michael Moorer. The tally was 4-1 in his favor. Interestingly, the only vote against licensing "The Real Deal" came from Elias Ghanem, the sole doctor on the commission.

When Dr. Ghanem learned that Holyfield was going to apply for a license to fight Tyson later this year, he told the New York *Post*, "Oh, my God, no. This man is like a walking time bomb. Tyson is going to hurt him very badly. It will be a tragedy if he is licensed here."

But what if Holyfield passes whatever tests Nevada throws at him? Should the state deny him a license then? And more pointedly, will the state have the right to reject him without risking a humongous lawsuit? Following the Moorer fight, after which it was erroneously reported that Holyfield fought "basically in cardiac arrest," the former champion received a clean bill of health from the Mayo Clinic. That's about as reassuring as it gets. Holyfield responded by outfighting Ray Mercer in a spirited 10-rounder.

In his rubber match vs. Riddick Bowe last November, Holyfield scored a knockdown, but seemed unable to follow up and suffered a kayo loss two rounds later. As a result, concerns about his health resurfaced. In May, he punched freely in a fifth-round TKO victory over Bobby Czyz. Is Holyfield a shot fighter? Perhaps. But he is also ranked as one of the five best heavyweights in the world. Whether that says more about Holyfield or the state of the division is problematic.

It can be argued, I suppose, that tests can't determine everything, and there's no way for Holyfield to know the ultimate effects further punishment will produce in later years. Once a fighter begins to age, of course, the risk becomes even greater. But if Holyfield is willing to take that risk, and doctors can find no tangible reason to dissuade him, I can't see why he shouldn't be green-lighted.

One other thing: With all respect to Dr. Ghanem, I don't want to hear about what a gross mismatch Tyson-Holyfield will be. Such an argument is the height of hypocrisy. Wasn't Tyson-Frank Bruno a mismatch? Bruno is older than Holyfield, and not one-tenth the fighter. Moreover, prior to his second go with Tyson, Bruno had suffered four kayo defeats. Holyfield has suffered but one. Nobody likes mismatches, but they remain a necessary evil, and at every level of the game, too.

It's 1996, and not 1990 or 1992, so Tyson-Holyfield isn't the heavyweight fight I'd most like to see. But if a team of doctors isn't going to tell Holyfield to call it a career, I'm not going to be sanctimonious enough to do it either.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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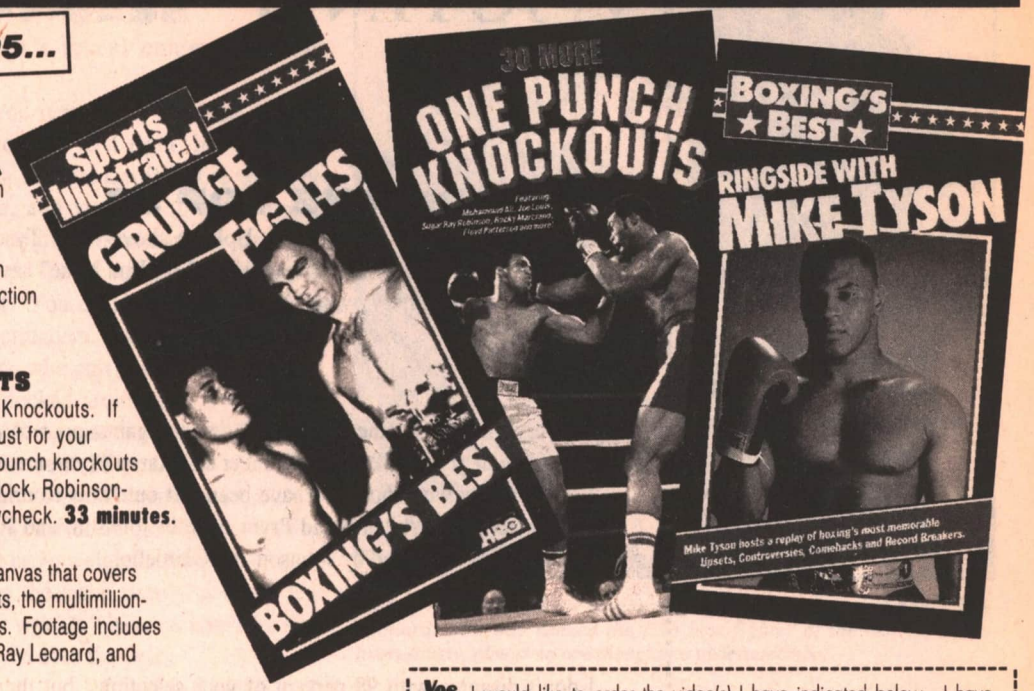

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NGSIDE WITH MIKE TYSON

Tyson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers main events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion-lar gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes ny Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and ch more. **44 minutes.**

E MIDDLEWEIGHTS

most skillful and devastating middleweights in the history of boxing are profiled in this -moving video. Watch stellar performances by Stanley Ketchel, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Marcel rdan. Also includes Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Carlos Monzon, and many others. Hosted by rt Gowdy and Floyd Patterson. **58 minutes.**

XING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS

ch wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each ision and then debate who deserves the title of the Greatest Fighter of All-Time. Includes explosive t footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; terweights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights MIckey Walker, rlos Monzon, and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie ore; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. **60 minutes.**

E HEAVYWEIGHTS: "THE BIG PUNCHERS"

e biggest draw in sports today is the heavyweight knockout artist. This hard-hitting video explores xing's most famous punchers. A sample of the action included in this video are clips of Dempsey's age victory over Willard, the second Louis-Schmeling fight, Marciano vs. Walcott, and Frazier vs. . **59 minutes.**

EAT ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS

u've got a ringside seat for a heart-stopping lineup of boxing's most exciting knockouts, cluding Muhammad Ali-George Foreman, Ezzard Charles-Joe Walcott, Jim Corbett-Bob tzsimmons, Rocky Marciano-Joe Walcott, Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano, and many ore. **30 minutes.**

E HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS

st Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll e challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. ck Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene nney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that ade him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

YSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS

oin Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds is own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown efore him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

MORE ON THE TOP 50

How on earth can you rate Larry Holmes above Mike Tyson in your feature, "The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years" (April 1996)? If "Iron Mike" never again laced 'em up, he'd make my list of the top five heavyweights of all-time.

OLIVER ADAMS
Isle of Wight, England

Fighters who win synthetic titles and defend against poor competition are consistently overrated. Two of your choices, Pernell Whitaker and Aaron Pryor, are examples.

Some fighters who shouldn't have been left out: Luis Rodriguez, who was a much better all-around fighter than Whitaker and Pryor, Harold Johnson, and Joey Giardello. Take a look at the quality of opposition faced by Johnson and Giardello.

ANGELO ROSSI
Philadelphia, PA

I don't disagree with 98 percent of your selections, but there's one fighter you should have more respect for, and that's the great Horacio Accavallo. The Argentine flyweight went undefeated in his first 30 fights and lost only twice in 83 career bouts, defeating, among others, Alacran Torres, Hiroyuki Ebihara, and the only man to have beaten him, Salvatore Burruni.

ARMANDO ESPINOZA
Pico Rivera, CA

The ranking and adulation Rocky Marciano so often receives has never failed to amaze me. True, he retired undefeated, but did he *ever* fight a true world-class heavyweight who was in his prime? I think not.

How you can justify ranking Marciano over Larry Holmes is beyond me. I suggest Marciano should be ranked somewhere in the 20s, below Holmes, Mike Tyson, and proven technicians like Ezzard Charles, Ruben Olivares, and Pernell Whitaker.

COLIN McDOUGAL
Edinburgh, Scotland

How can Sugar Ray Leonard be rated fifth, especially given his loss to Roberto Duran, who was really only a lightweight at the time? Moreover, Leonard lost his second fight with Thomas Hearns, though they called it a draw, and Marvin Hagler beat him, but Leonard got the decision.

MARTINO BERZEWSKI
San Antonio, TX

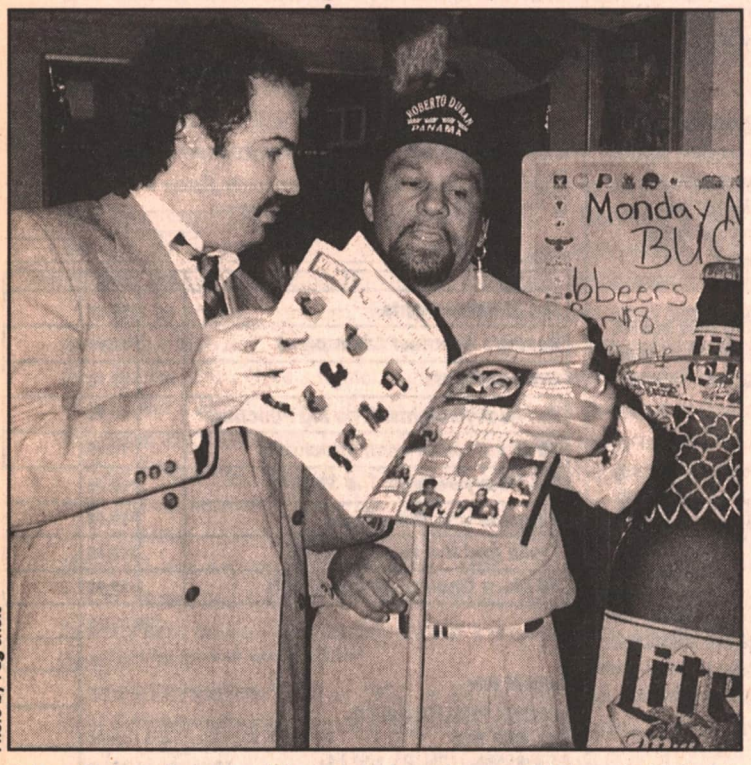


Photo by Pug Shots

Roberto Duran and promoter Mike Acri check out the status of "Manos De Piedra" in our feature, "The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years." We placed Duran third, behind only Sugar Ray Robinson and Muhammad Ali.

I was shocked that you ranked Sugar Ray Leonard fifth. He belongs about 24th or so. Look at his record compared to other great fighters. And I still look back on the Hagler fight and draw the same conclusion: Marvelous Marvin was robbed.

EUGENE A. BOROWITZ
Mesa, AZ

FRAZIER'S OFF-BASE

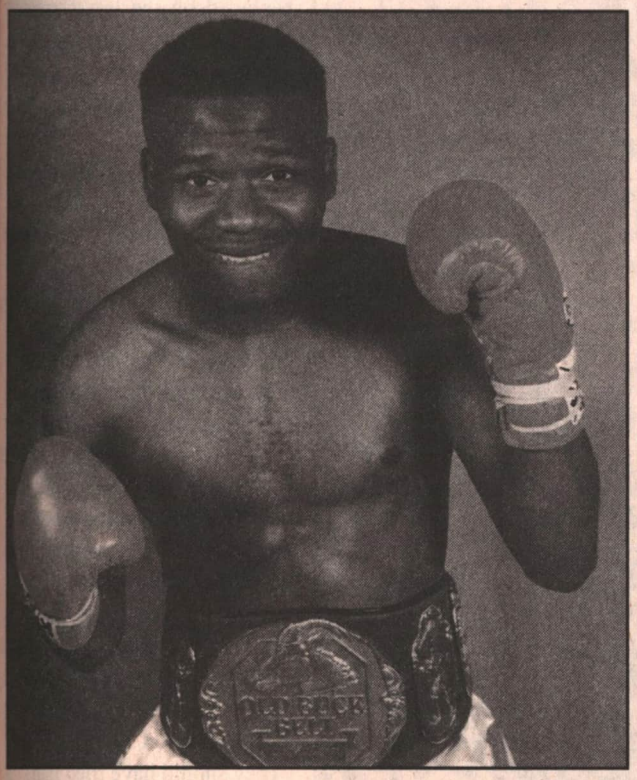
In response to Joe Frazier's recent comments about Muhammad Ali:

You have stated, Joe, that you really won all three of your fights with Ali. You indeed won the first fight, but take into account that Ali was coming off a 3½-year layoff before taking on Jerry Quarry, Oscar Bonavena, and yourself in a 4½-month stretch. In the second fight, all you did was manage to get hit by Ali's combinations and get tied up for 12 rounds. And how can you say you won the third fight? You do not win by sitting on your stool as your chief second surrenders. Blame yourself or your trainer, Eddie Futch, but it was *you* who quit in Manila, not Ali.

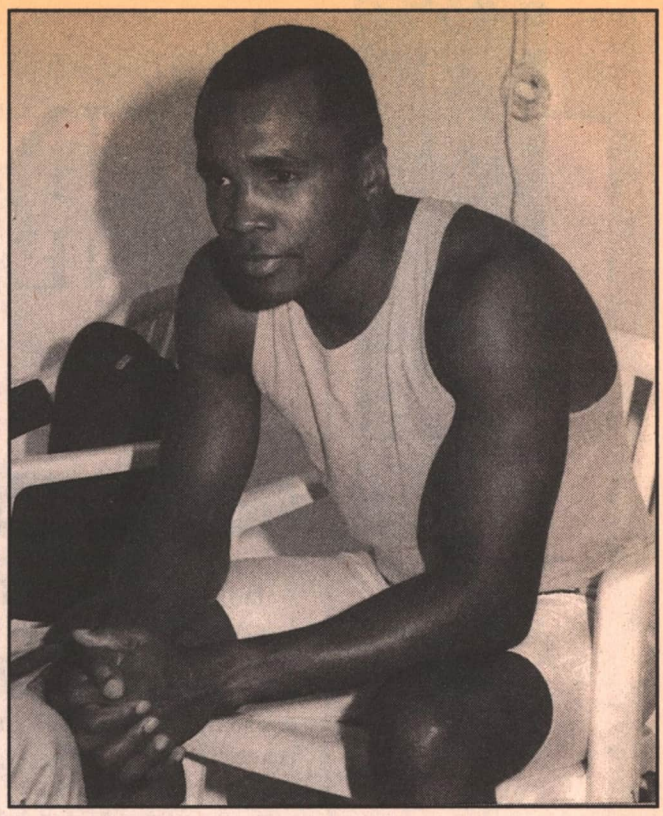
Compare careers: You got knocked around like a ping-pong ball by George Foreman, while Ali remains the only man to have knocked Big George out. You went 25 rounds with Oscar Bonavena, while Ali stopped him in the 15th round. Ali fought Earnie Shavers, Ron Lyle, and Ken Norton (three times). How many times did you take on these heavyweights? *Zero.*

Be thankful Ali was fighting the same time you were. If it wasn't for Ali, you most certainly wouldn't have received the paydays or the attention you've enjoyed over the years.

DONALD HAUGERUD
Montevideo, MN



IBF junior featherweight champion Vuyani Bungu continues to be overshadowed by Marco Antonio Barrera. Bungu won the title by beating a previously undefeated Kennedy McKinney. He has made five defenses.



Lots of readers think we overrated five-division champion Sugar Ray Leonard, who was ranked the fifth best fighter of the last 50 years. Interestingly, almost no one thought we underrated *him.*

MERCHANT AFTER DARK

Larry Merchant should be banished from HBO's boxing broadcasts. His condescending manner, shallow insights, and bland personality make him a detriment. He has nothing to offer. He appears to be a tired old man who is bored with the night's proceedings. On the other hand, HBO's other analyst, George Foreman, is an asset. As a fighter who tries not to take himself too seriously, he provides information from a unique perspective. Foreman is entertaining and expresses himself with emotion.

VICTOR DORSEY
Sunnyvale, CA

BUNGU OVER BARRERA

After watching IBF junior featherweight champion Vuyani Bungu demolish his number-one contender, Pablo Ozuna, in two spectacular rounds, I was disappointed to see that THE RING continues to rate Marco Antonio Barrera ahead of the South African. True, Barrera is a strong fighter, but he has yet to beat a champion in his prime. Bungu, of course, defeated a previously unbeaten Kennedy McKinney.

Bungu's critics say he's not exciting to watch, but hey, these aren't popularity ratings! Exciting or not, Bungu has proven himself to be the best. Five title defenses and he's barely lost a round. In many ways, he's the Pernell Whitaker of the junior feathers. If Barrera wants to be number one, he'll have to get past Bungu—and that won't be easy.

STUART THEUNISSEN
Cape Town, South Africa ■

ROUND ONE

THE OLYMPIC SUFFERS ANOTHER KAYO

In 1994, when Bob Arum resurrected boxing shows at the old Olympic Auditorium in inner-city Los Angeles, he received tons of attaboys. Even *The Los Angeles Times*, which barely acknowledges the existence of boxing, ran nostalgic stories throbbing with praise. After all, Arum was attempting to revive the glories of yesteryear and attract legitimate commerce to a desperately run-down neighborhood. Apparently, this was laudable enough to outweigh boxing's intrinsic political incorrectness.

The first show, an HBO event, featured Oscar De La Hoya stopping Jimmi Bredahl, the less-than-great Dane. Among the 5,000 or so fans sat Jack Nicholson, Mickey Rourke, and Garry Shandling. But by the next card, the media, fans, and celebrities were nowhere around. Within a year, Arum ducked out, to be replaced by the less-connected Peter Broudy, a local promoter. Broudy put together a string of 10 cards. But citing red ink, he has quietly moved on. The 72-year-old Olympic is dark again.

The Olympic: Closed again

Photo by Brent Cook

Forum Boxing, promoting shows at the Great Western Forum in Inglewood and the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, remains the dominant fistic impresario in Southern California. Its publicist, John Beyrooty, contends that the reopened Olympic was never really a threat. "They claimed they put in $5-million worth of renovations," he smirked. "But they didn't even have a clock."

Beyrooty disputed Broudy's claim that fans didn't go because they feared the neighborhood around the Olympic. "The key is to put on good fights," he said. "They should have tried that."

–Ivan G. Goldman

GIL TURNER: 1930-1996

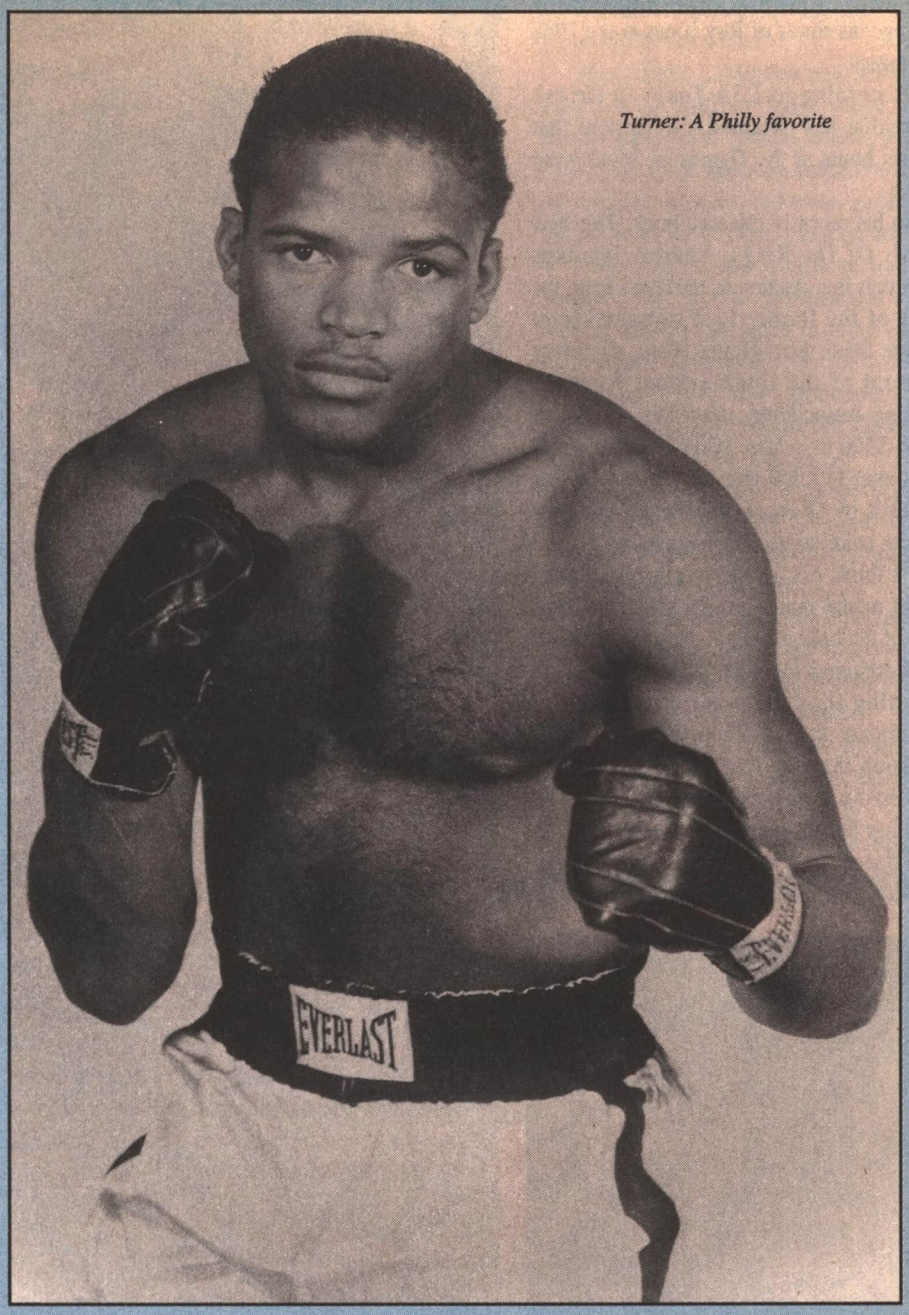
Former welterweight contender Gil Turner, 65, died in Philadelphia on May 13 following a short illness. He fought professionally from 1950 to 1958, compiling a record of 56-19-2 (35). In his only world title bout, Turner suffered an 11th-round knockout at the hands of Kid Gavilan in July 1952. The fight drew a crowd of 39,000 to Philadelphia's Municipal Stadium, setting an attendance record for a welterweight title fight that stood until Roberto Duran-Sugar Ray Leonard I in 1980.

Turner's rip-snorting style made for great action fights. So many of his bouts were televised during the '50s that one wag wrote Turner fought on TV "almost as much as Lucy and Desi." Among his victims were Beau Jack, Ike Williams, Gene Fullmer, Virgil Akins, Johnny Saxton, Del Flanagan, Bobby Dykes, Joe Miceli, and Charlie Fusari.

Turner sold Ballantine beer after he retired from the ring, and later worked on the waterfront as a security guard.

In a city of great fighters, Turner is regarded as the all-time Philadelphia drawing card. The attendance at his funeral certainly testified to that.

–Nigel Collins



Turner: A Philly favorite

LIFE IMITATES ART

Among the ringside celebrities at Madison Square Garden for the Lennox Lewis-Ray Mercer card was Rob Fitzgerald, better known for saying, "I love you, man," during those Bud Lite commercials. When CompuBox's Bob Canobbio approached Fitzgerald and asked him if he'd say a quick hello to the punch-counter's son, the pitchman said yes. So Canobbio dialed home on a cellular phone, hooking up Fitzgerald with eight-year-old Daniel Canobbio.

"I love you, man," Fitzgerald began.

The response from Daniel, as if on cue: "You're still not getting my Bud Lite."

–Steve Farhood

FOOL'S GOLD

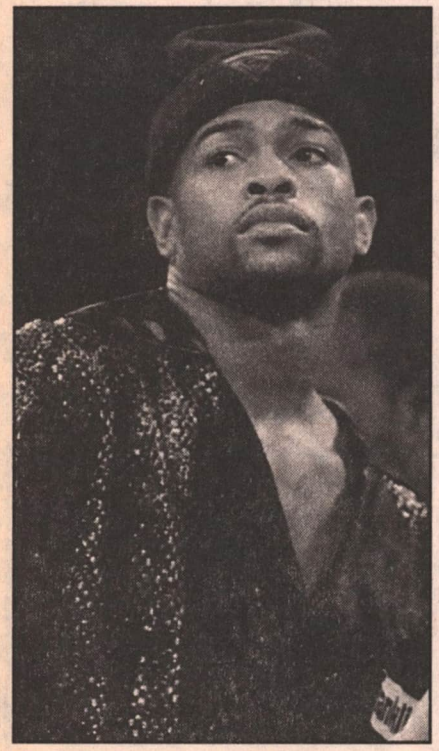
Finally, a possible explanation for the outrageous ripoff of Roy Jones at the 1988 Olympics.

According to *USA Today*, a British journalist has obtained a document that shows bouts at the Games in Seoul were fixed.

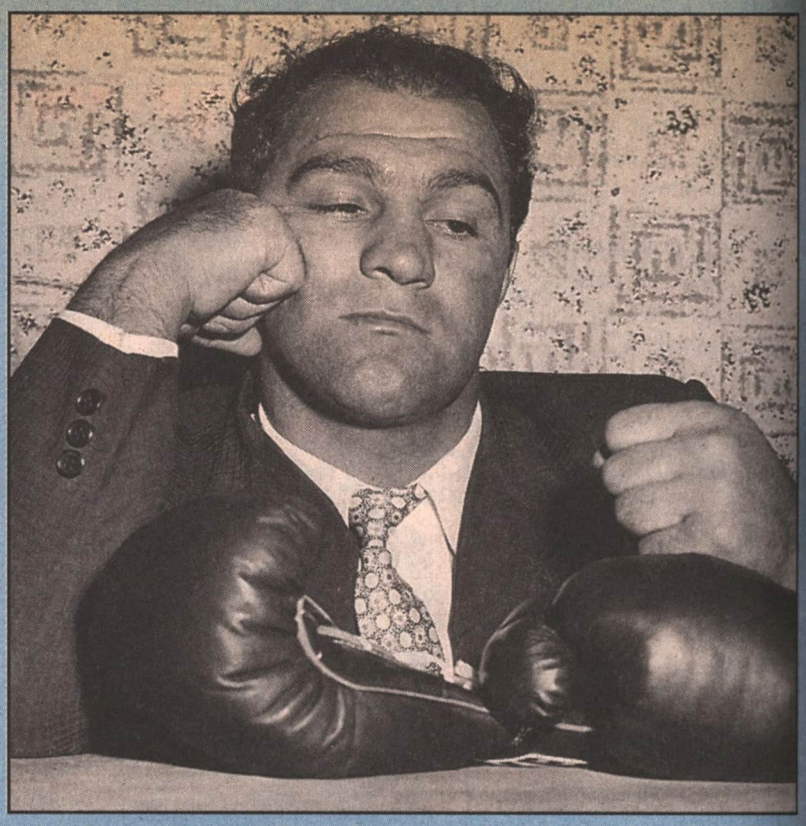
In his recently released book, *The New Lords Of The Rings*, Andrew Jennings says that in a document retrieved from the files of the former East German secret police Stasi, Karl-Heinz Wehr, secretary general of the International Amateur Boxing Association, describes payoffs of $300-$500 to judges. Wehr reportedly told Stasi that $15,000 was paid to two boxing officials by "Korean organizers," and they in turn paid judges, Jennings writes.

"I think it's a safe assumption Jones' [gold medal match vs. Park Si Hun] was one of the bribed fights," Jennings says.

Contacted by *USA Today*, Jones, the reigning the IBF super middleweight champion, said, "When they made that decision the way they did, I knew there had to be a payoff." But when asked whether he felt vindicated, Jones said, "It still doesn't put a gold medal around my neck."



Jones: Was his gold medal bout fixed?



Is The Rock pouting over his purse?

UNDERPAID? IT'S A RELATIVE THING

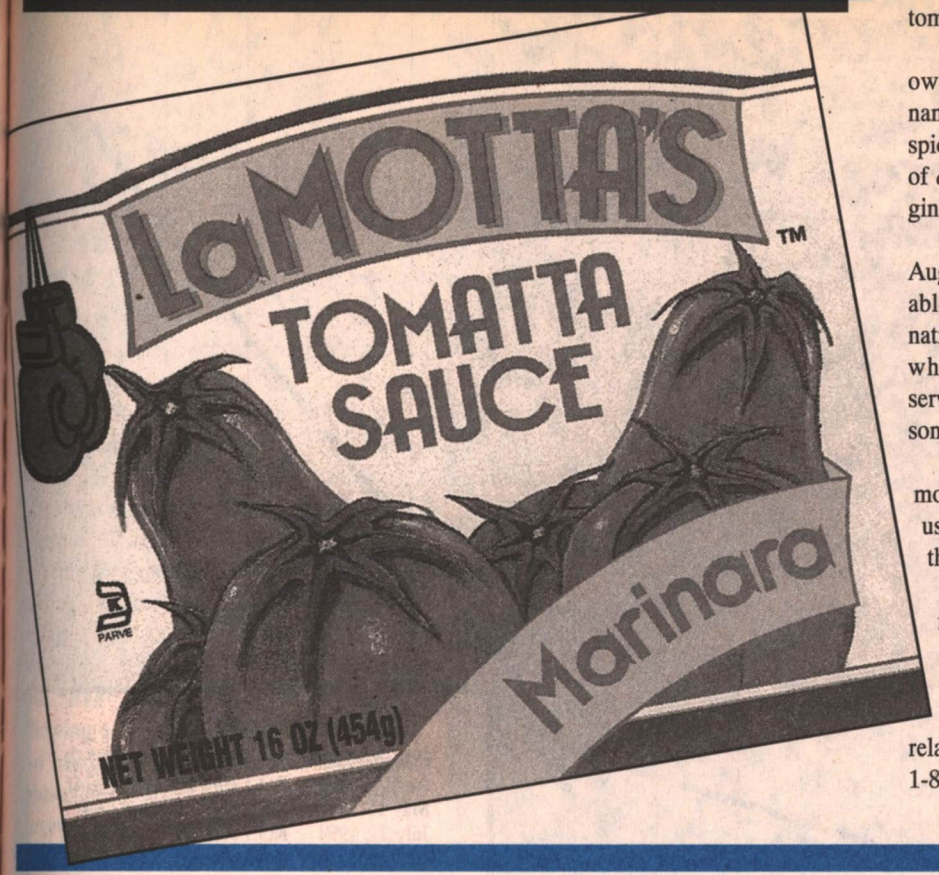
When Mike Tyson complained about his $30-million purse for the Frank Bruno fight, Marty Weill, who at one time managed Rocky Marciano, thought back to a simpler time. From his files, Weill dug out a letter from his former accountant, who itemized The Rock's purse and expenses for his decision victory over fellow contender Roland LaStarza at Madison Square Garden on March 24, 1950. Going into the bout, Marciano was 26-0 and LaStarza 37-0.

Marciano's total purse was $9,731.01. The deductions:

Training expenses:	$345
Fee to Manager's Guild:	$100
Publicity and dressing room expenses:	$230
Sparring partners:	$150
Al Colombo (assistant trainer):	$350
Charley Goldman (trainer):	$400
Goldman's expenses:	$18.30
Gym costs:	$15
Total:	$1,608.30
Marciano's purse, minus deductions:	$8,122.71

Like we said, it was a simpler time.

LaMOTTA'S TOMATTA SAUCE



While former middleweight champion Jake "Raging Bull" LaMotta had to punch a lot of tomato cans to win the title, he never dreamed he would wind up *crushing* tomatoes 45 years later.

That's right. LaMotta is now selling his own line of gourmet pasta sauce, aptly named LaMotta's Tomatta Sauce, a tasty, spicy, and thick marinara sauce consisting of *crushed* tomatoes, red wine, garlic, virgin olive oil, basil, capers, and onions.

"We started the business back in August 1994, but it is only now that we are able to market the sauce in retail outlets nationwide," says Jake's son Joe LaMotta, who runs day-to-day operations. Jake serves as company spokesman. Father and son both live in New York City.

Jake, who learned the recipe from his mother, insists this is the very marinara he used to make and pour on his spaghetti the night before a big bout.

"It tastes like homemade because we make it with only fresh ingredients," says Jake, who dubs his kosher product "The Sauce With The Punch!"

LaMotta's Tomatta Sauce and related merchandise is available by calling 1-800-LAMOTTA.

–Roberto Santiago

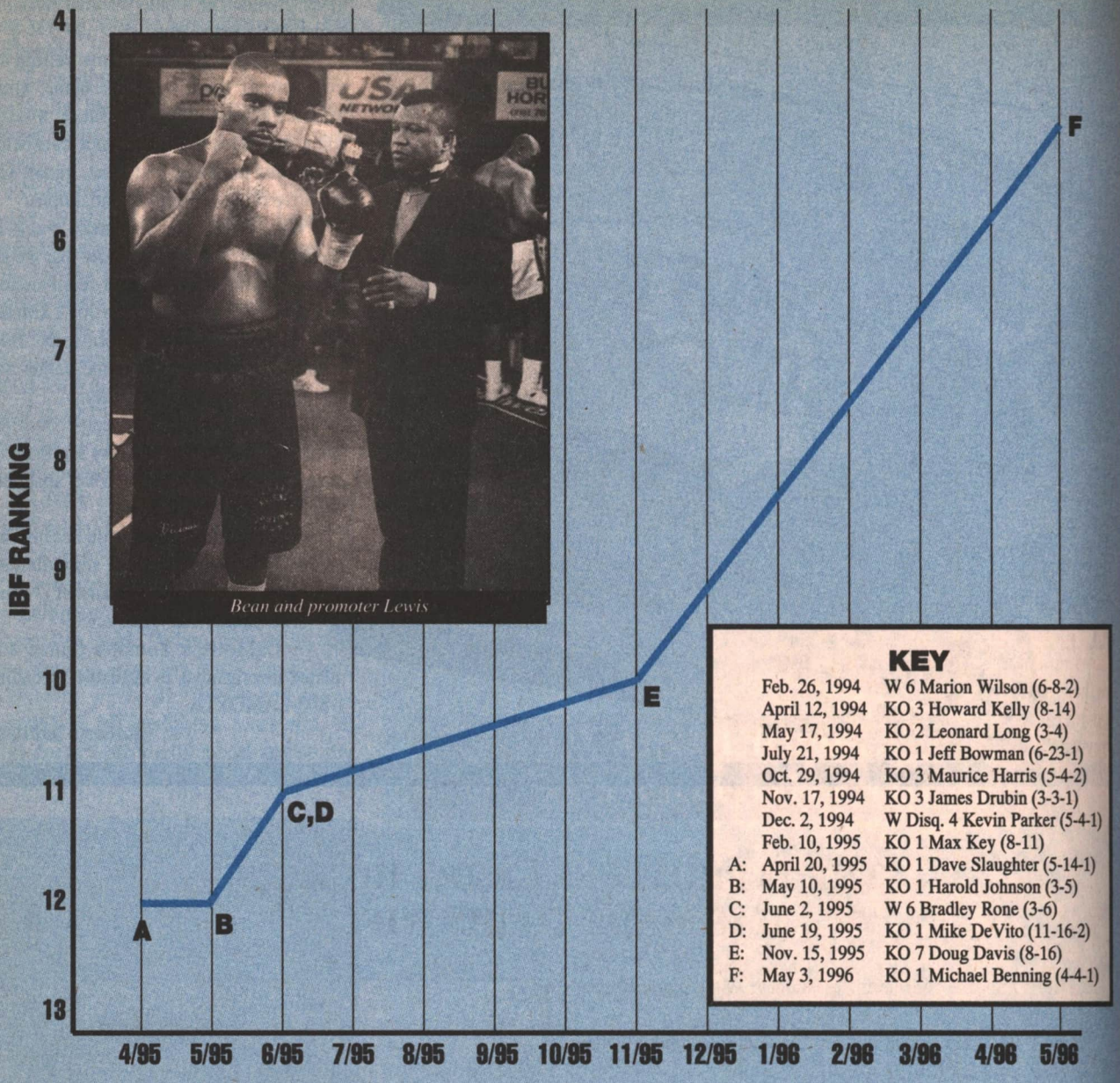
THE 10 PROMISES LARRY HOLMES HAS MADE TO HIS WIFE

10. He'll endorse retirement as soon as Madonna endorses celibacy.
9. He'll leave the ring as soon as the Statue of Liberty leaves New York Harbor.
8. He'll stop fighting as soon as hockey players do the same.
7. He'll quit boxing as soon as Fabio quits looking in the mirror.
6. He'll say goodbye as soon as Magic Johnson *stops* saying it.
5. He'll work out of his home, not the gym, as soon as the Detroit Tigers pitching staff works out of trouble.
4. He'll hang up his gloves as soon as the Home Shopping Network hangs up their phones.
3. He'll seek new frontiers as soon as NASA does.
2. He'll fire his last jab at heavyweights as soon as Rush Limbaugh fires his last jab at liberals.
1. He'll never break a promise that he hasn't already broken.

Diane and Larry Holmes: Promises, promises

THE RISE OF THE "OTHER" BEAN

Bean and promoter Lewis



KEY

	Feb. 26, 1994	W 6 Marion Wilson (6-8-2)
	April 12, 1994	KO 3 Howard Kelly (8-14)
	May 17, 1994	KO 2 Leonard Long (3-4)
	July 21, 1994	KO 1 Jeff Bowman (6-23-1)
	Oct. 29, 1994	KO 3 Maurice Harris (5-4-2)
	Nov. 17, 1994	KO 3 James Drubin (3-3-1)
	Dec. 2, 1994	W Disq. 4 Kevin Parker (5-4-1)
	Feb. 10, 1995	KO 1 Max Key (8-11)
A:	April 20, 1995	KO 1 Dave Slaughter (5-14-1)
B:	May 10, 1995	KO 1 Harold Johnson (3-5)
C:	June 2, 1995	W 6 Bradley Rone (3-6)
D:	June 19, 1995	KO 1 Mike DeVito (11-16-2)
E:	Nov. 15, 1995	KO 7 Doug Davis (8-16)
F:	May 3, 1996	KO 1 Michael Benning (4-4-1)

As far as heavyweight prospects go, we suppose Vaughn Bean is as good as most. The 22-year-old Chicagoan is 24-0 (18), but totally untested. That's okay with his promoter, Butch Lewis, who says, "Vaughn is strong, but still green. I got time on my side. I'll turn him loose in 10 to 12 months."

Why, then, is Bean ranked in the top 10 of two of the three major alphabet organizations *now*? As we went to press, Bean was rated fifth by the IBF, seventh by the WBA, and 15th by the WBC. Given the quality of his opposition, that he's rated at all is incredible. Consider that Bean's most recent victim, Michael Benning, hadn't fought since 1981! And consider that in his last 14 fights, Bean has faced only two fighters with winning records, both of whom were 5-4.

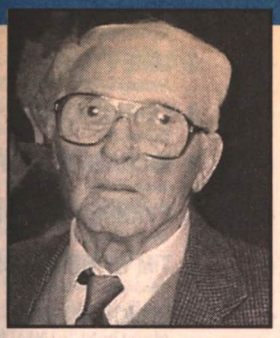
Asked to explain Bean's standing, IBF ratings chairman Doug Beavers said, "He started out at number 14 in the USBA ratings and just kept winning and progressing up the ladder. The quality of his opposition has been about the same as the others."

Not really.

The accompanying graph details Bean's rise from April 1995, when he entered the IBF ratings, to the present. We've also listed his fights dating back to 1994, with the opponents' records at the time of their bout with Bean.

–Steve Farhood

OUTSIDE THE ROPES



Paul "Red" Carr: Manager of champions

South Africa's **Maurice Toweel**, 65, died in Johannesburg after undergoing surgery. Toweel managed and promoted several top South African fighters, including his brother, former world bantamweight champion **Vic Toweel** ... Notorious underworld figure **Blinky Palermo**, 91, died in Philadelphia after suffering a stroke. In the '50s and '60s, Palermo was among boxing's chief power-brokers. Look for a full-length feature on Palermo in next month's issue ... Manager **Paul "Red" Carr**, 101, died in Buffalo following a lengthy illness. In the '20s, Carr handled a pair of world champions, lightweight **Jimmy Goodrich** and light heavyweight **Jimmy Slattery**.

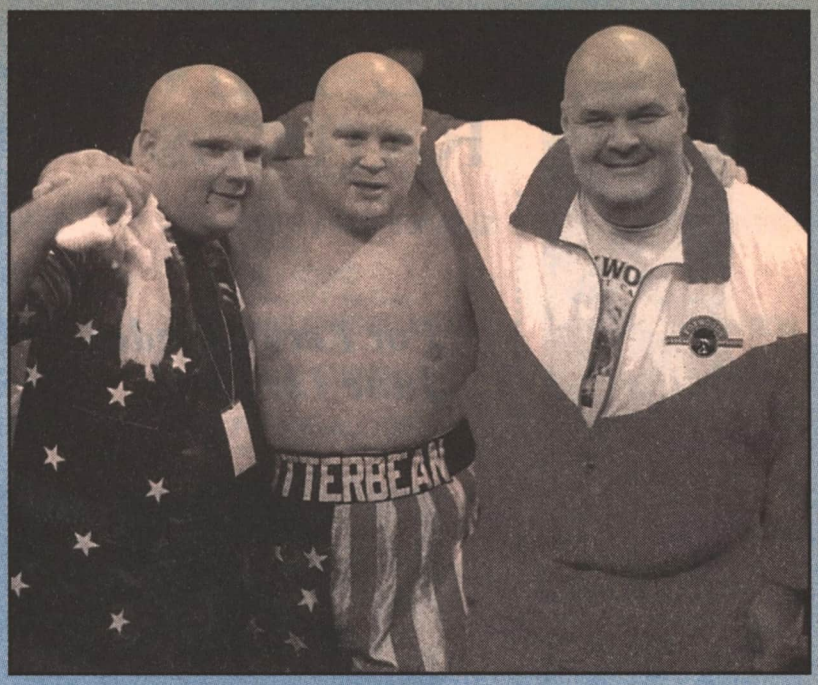


Photo by Angie Carlino

BEANS OF THE WORLD UNITE

When the USA Network ran a Butterbean Lookalike contest, the number of entries was astounding. After all, how many people do *you* know who look like Butterbean? The photo includes the real Bean, the contest winner, Ronald Emerling (left), and runner-up Howard Baker, who made the final four.

PUNCHLINES

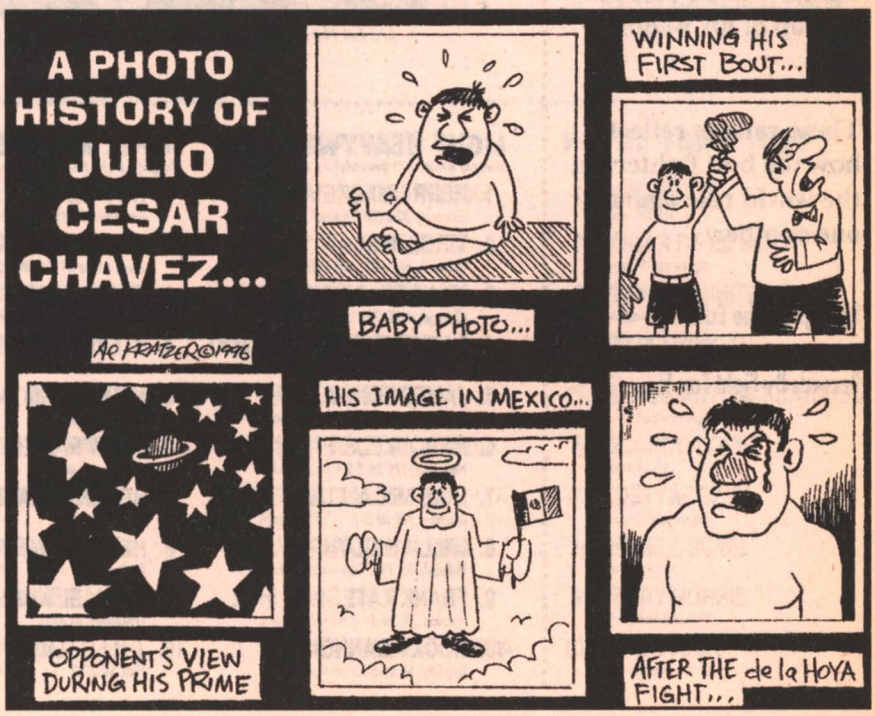
"Jesus of Nazareth looked more like Johnnie Cochran than Dan Quayle, [and nothing like the] pale-faced, blue-eyed, blond, stringy-haired drag queen-looking individual that white supremacists need him to be."

–Rock Newman, manager of Riddick Bowe, warming up at a poorly attended Johnnie Cochran speech in Washington, D.C.

In late-May, New York City police tried to arrest Mitch "Blood" Green for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend. The heavyweight resisted, prompting the police to use Mace. Why were the cops, who had been on the lookout for Green since April, sure they had found their man? When they first spotted Green, he was trying to rip a Mike Tyson T-shirt off a friend's back. "You're supposed to be my friend," a detective quoted Green as saying. "How could you wear that shirt?"

(Both Punchlines courtesy of the *New York Post*.)

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended June 12, 1996

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

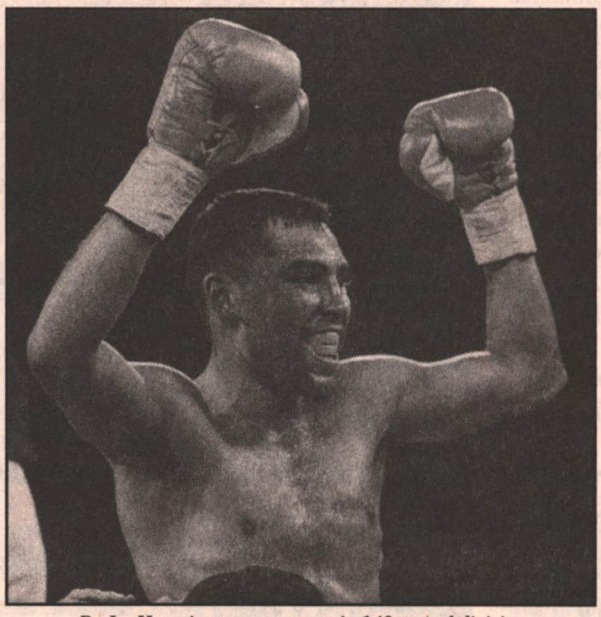


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

De La Hoya jumps to top spot in 140-pound division

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **RIDDICK BOWE** Fort Washington, MD *38-1*
2. **MIKE TYSON** Southington, OH *43-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *29-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *36-1*
5. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Atlanta, GA *33-3*
6. **TIM WITHERSPOON** Philadelphia, PA *45-4*
7. **BRUCE SELDON** Atlantic City, NJ *33-3 (WBA Champ)*
8. **ALEXANDR ZOLKIN** Westerville, OH *24-2*
9. **OLIVER McCALL** Chicago, IL *28-6*
10. **HENRY AKINWANDE** England *29-0-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *27-4 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** Spring Valley, NY *27-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *25-3-2*
4. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *19-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *34-1*
6. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany *15-0*
7. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *33-1*
8. **ALEXANDER GUROV** Ukraine *17-1-1*
9. **CARL THOMPSON** England *19-4*
10. **DAVID IZEQWIRE** Washington, D.C. *19-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **HENRY MASKE** Germany *30-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *42-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *22-0*
4. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *31-0*
5. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI *51-2-2*
6. **MERQUI SOSA** New York, NY *26-5-2*
7. **MIKE McCALLUM** Brooklyn, NY *48-3-1*
8. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *21-0*
9. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *36-4*
10. **ROCKY GANNON** Bay City, MI *25-5*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *31-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa *41-9 (WBC Champ)*
3. **FRANK LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *29-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland *32-3*
5. **NIGEL BENN** England *42-3-1*
6. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *40-6*
7. **BRYANT BRANNON** Trenton, NJ *16-0*
8. **HENRY WHARTON** England *23-2-1*
9. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *48-3*
10. **TIM LITTLES** Flint, MI *27-2*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *29-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *28-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **SHINJI TAKEHARA** Japan *24-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JORGE CASTRO** Argentina *99-5-2*
5. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** Seattle, WA *34-1*
6. **QUINCY TAYLOR** Dallas, TX *26-4*
7. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA *28-0*
8. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *24-0*
9. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *35-5-1*
10. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *27-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *43-6 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *56-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *35-1*
4. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *35-2*
5. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *64-1*
6. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *28-2*
7. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *30-2*
8. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX *23-0*
9. **AARON DAVIS**
   Bronx, NY *43-4*
10. **EMMETT LINTON**
    Tacoma, WA *22-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *38-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *29-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *32-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *37-1*
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *36-3-1*
6. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *22-1-1*
7. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
   Orlando, FL *59-3*
8. **PATRICK COLEMAN**
   Chicago, IL *25-5*
9. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER**
   France *21-4*
10. **GARY JACOBS**
    Scotland *43-6*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *22-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *17-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *52-4-1*
4. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *96-2-1*
5. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *40-0*
6. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina *70-3-2 (WBA Champ)*
7. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *36-3*
8. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *27-2*
9. **FRED PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL *40-21-4*
10. **JAN BERGMAN**
    South Africa *32-0*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *18-0*
3. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *28-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *29-1*
5. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *49-5-2 (WBC Champ)*
6. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *19-0*
7. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *26-1-1*
8. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *39-4*
9. **ARTUR GRIGORJAN**
   Uzbekistan *19-0*
10. **IVAN ROBINSON**
    Delran, NJ *22-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *39-3-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *23-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *33-1-1*
4. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *55-4-1*
5. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *20-2 (WBA Champ)*
6. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *42-3*
7. **REGGIE TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY *41-3-1*
8. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *24-0*
9. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
   Kazakhstan *27-3*
10. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
    San Antonio, TX *30-3-2*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *43-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Japan *38-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *22-0*
4. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *48-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *52-7*
6. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *16-3*
7. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *44-1-2*
8. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia *30-2*
9. **CESAR SOTO**
   Mexico *43-6-2*
10. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
    Mexico *15-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *41-0*
2. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *52-7-3 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *30-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *29-2-1*
5. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *24-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *39-2*
7. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *37-2*
8. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *23-0*
9. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *42-3-1*
10. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
    Mexico *18-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *19-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *19-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *36-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *32-1*
5. **ANCEE GEDEON**
   Westminster, CA *14-8-1*
6. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *4-1*
7. **ROBBIE REGAN**
   Wales *17-2-3*
8. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *17-0*
9. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASSUK**
   Thailand *12-0*
10. **DAORUNG CHUWATANA**
    Thailand *56-5-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan *19-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *35-0-2*
3. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *27-1*
4. **ALIMI GOITIA**
   Venezuela *15-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *21-1 (IBF Champ)*
6. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *31-1-1*
7. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-6*
8. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
9. **POLO SAUCEDO**
   Houston, TX *10-2-1*
10. **SAMSON DUTCH BOY GYM**
    Thailand *14-0*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *22-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *29-1*
3. **SAEN SOW PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *25-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *32-3-2*
5. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM**
   Thailand *23-1*
6. **CHOKCHAI 3-K BATTERY**
   Thailand *29-1*
7. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *32-2*
8. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA *41-5-1*
9. **JESPER JENSEN**
   Denmark *17-0*
10. **DANIEL WARD**
    South Africa *24-6*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *29-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *41-3*
3. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *39-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **KEIJI YAMAGUCHI**
   Japan *19-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *31-2*
6. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *45-5-4*
7. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico *29-7*
8. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *44-10-2*
9. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *19-2*
10. **MANUEL JESUS HERRERA**
    Dominican Republic *16-4-1*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **ROY JONES**
   Super Middleweight
2. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Junior Welterweight
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Junior Featherweight
6. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
7. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
8. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Heavyweight
9. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
10. **MIKE TYSON**
    Heavyweight

RYAN OUT LOUD

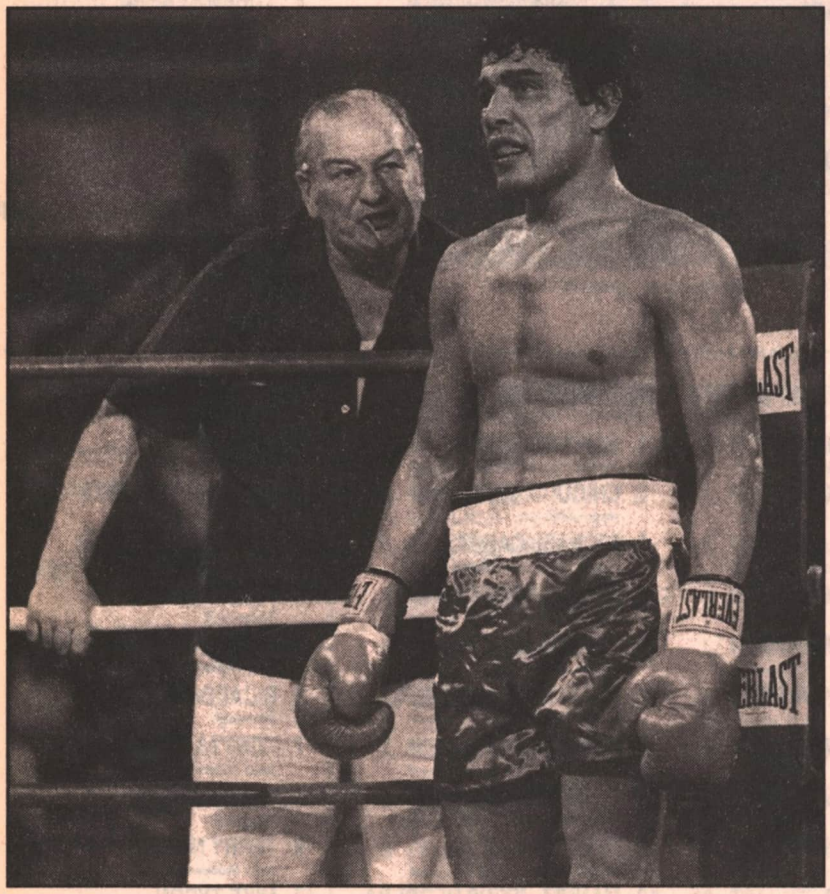
By Jeff Ryan

MATINEE IDLE

Though my interest in boxing was initially sparked by Cosell, Ali, and ABC in the '70s, it was actually the '80s, particularly the *early*-'80s, that was the golden age of TV boxing in my lifetime. Good fights were as prevalent on the tube in those days as infomercials for abdominal exercise machines are today. Hardly a Saturday afternoon went by when free TV didn't offer a marquee matchup, a crossroads clash, a superstar on parade, or an all-time great stopping off en route to Canastota.

Because those were the days before many of us owned a VCR, yard work was put off, trips to the beach were concluded early, and dinner was either delayed or burned. Invitations to the homes of friends who weren't fight junkies were stamped REJECTED. That 4:30-6:00 p.m. time slot on weekends had a scheduling force field built around it. Nothing was allowed to penetrate.

Overestimating the speed of the supermarket checkout line, then getting stuck in unexpected traffic on the way home, could create the kind of stress usually experienced only by air-traffic controllers, 911 dispatchers, and Harold Lederman's diction teacher. And if, as sometimes was the case, fights were aired on different networks simultaneously, well, we grabbed that remote control and displayed the kind of hand speed that would have made Hector Camacho and Howard Davis Jr. envious.



In the early-'80s, it seemed warriors like Mustafa Hamsho, shown with cornerman Al Braverman, were featured on free TV as often as soap opera stars. Times, of course, have changed drastically. Now, we get junk like Larry Donald vs. Jorge Valdes.

Ah, the good old days. Of course, at the time, we never knew how good they were, did we? I can recall bitching about everything. Like why the networks left no more than 60 seconds for a postfight interview. Or why ABC was constantly changing announcers, from Chris Schenkel one week to Don Chevrier the next. Or why there weren't enough bantamweight bouts featured. Or why we'd always have to sit through wrist-wrestling, the World Lumberjack Championships, the Tour de France, or that moronic dogsled racing before the networks went live to ringside.

Yeah, we had it really rough, didn't we? Well, you know what? I'd put up with all of it, and more, just to again see Alexis Arguello's right hand, Marvin Hagler's granite chin, Hector Camacho's flurries, Wilfred Benitez' head feints, Mustafa Hamsho's low blows, and the gap in Frank "The Animal" Fletcher's smile. Or to hear Pat McGuigan sing "Danny Boy" to his son, Barry, hear Livingstone Bramble say something nutty, hear a Matthew Hilton left hook thud against someone's ribcage, and listen to Michael Spinks give thanks to his Lord for that explosive right cross he landed in the third round.

There was a time when I wouldn't dare discuss *my* glory days of tube tussles with any of my elders. They spoke reverently of the good old days of the Dumont Network, Don Dunphy, and the *Gillette Friday Night Fights*. How could anyone sit there with a straight face and extol the "Peacock Network," Ferdie Pacheco, and Razor Ruddock's Saturday afternoons? It seemed like a mismatch.

But was it?

In light of what boxing on the commercial networks has become, it's clear that it wasn't. Recent years have seen the quantity and quality of boxing on free TV decline dramatically. In 1983, for instance, NBC aired 38 bouts, CBS 23, and ABC 18. In 1995, CBS broadcast 14 fights, ABC six, FOX two, and NBC none. (And to think that I once complained that a specific *weight class* wasn't getting enough air time.) The reasons, as we've gone into before, include difficulty in attracting advertisers and the network sports departments' ever-shrinking budgets for "minor" sports.

When referee Larry Rozadilla counted out Antonio Cervantes, a kayo loser to Aaron Pryor, a national television audience watched him do it. Classic title fight matchups like Pryor-Cervantes can no longer be found on free TV.

The effects the cutbacks have on the Sweet Science are obvious: When the mainstream, much of it still not wired for cable, can't get boxing in its living room, it is difficult for boxing to create new fans or hold the interest of the old ones. Because the NBA has such a presence on NBC, it reaches people of all income brackets. But boxing, long considered the sport of the common man, is available on only the most limited basis to homes in areas not wired for cable or in households that can't afford cable or pay-per-view.

While certainly cognizant of the problem, it wasn't until recently that it dawned on me how sorry the situation has become. Though boxing is a part of my career, a CBS telecast, Larry Donald vs. Jorge Valdes on June 2, came and went without me even knowing about it. While that may be my fault for not checking the *TV Guide*, the oversight also told me how much I have come to expect that boxing just won't be playing the living room on any given weekend. (These days, a telecast, not a boxing-free weekend, is an aberration.) And that if there is a bout on, it is probably junk like Donald-Valdes.

If boxing can slip *my* mind, how many minds has it slipped of people with less interest in the sport?

The more time I spend thinking about how far free TV boxing has fallen, the greater appreciation I have for those Roaring '80s. And the more I recall that decade, the less hesitant I am to squelch my enthusiasm for it. They *were* the good old days. And here's a message for all you '50s-fancying Philco fossils: *My* favorite decade compares favorably to any in TV history.

Do you know what I found when looking back through the files? The likes of Arguello, Spinks, Hagler, Thomas Hearns, Salvador Sanchez, Eusebio Pedroza, and Jeff Chandler making network-TV title defenses. *Aaron Pryor-Antonio Cervantes*, a matchup of two immortals, unfolding as a Saturday matinee. Then there were Wilfredo Gomez, Bobby Chacon, Lupe Pintor. Champions were all over the dial, and we're talking about a time when only the WBA and WBC, and not every conceivable letter combination in the alphabet, were represented on the throne.

How I'd kill right now for a Ray Mancini fight on CBS, and this despite the fact that Mancini was never anything more than a walking transfusion with a smart mouth. Where is Edwin Rosario when you need him? Give me Robin Blake vs. Tony Baltazar again or John "The Beast" Mugabi vs. anyone. Reload Bazooka Limon. Unthaw "Ice Man" Milton McCrory. Dust off Cornelius Boza-Edwards. Bring back Sean O'Grady, for heaven's sake! Or "Hard Rock" Green.

Throw me a bone.

Hell, I'm desperate. Throw me a Bonecrusher. ■

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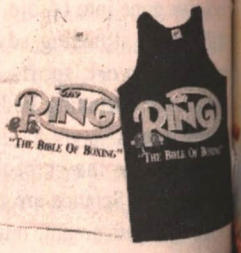

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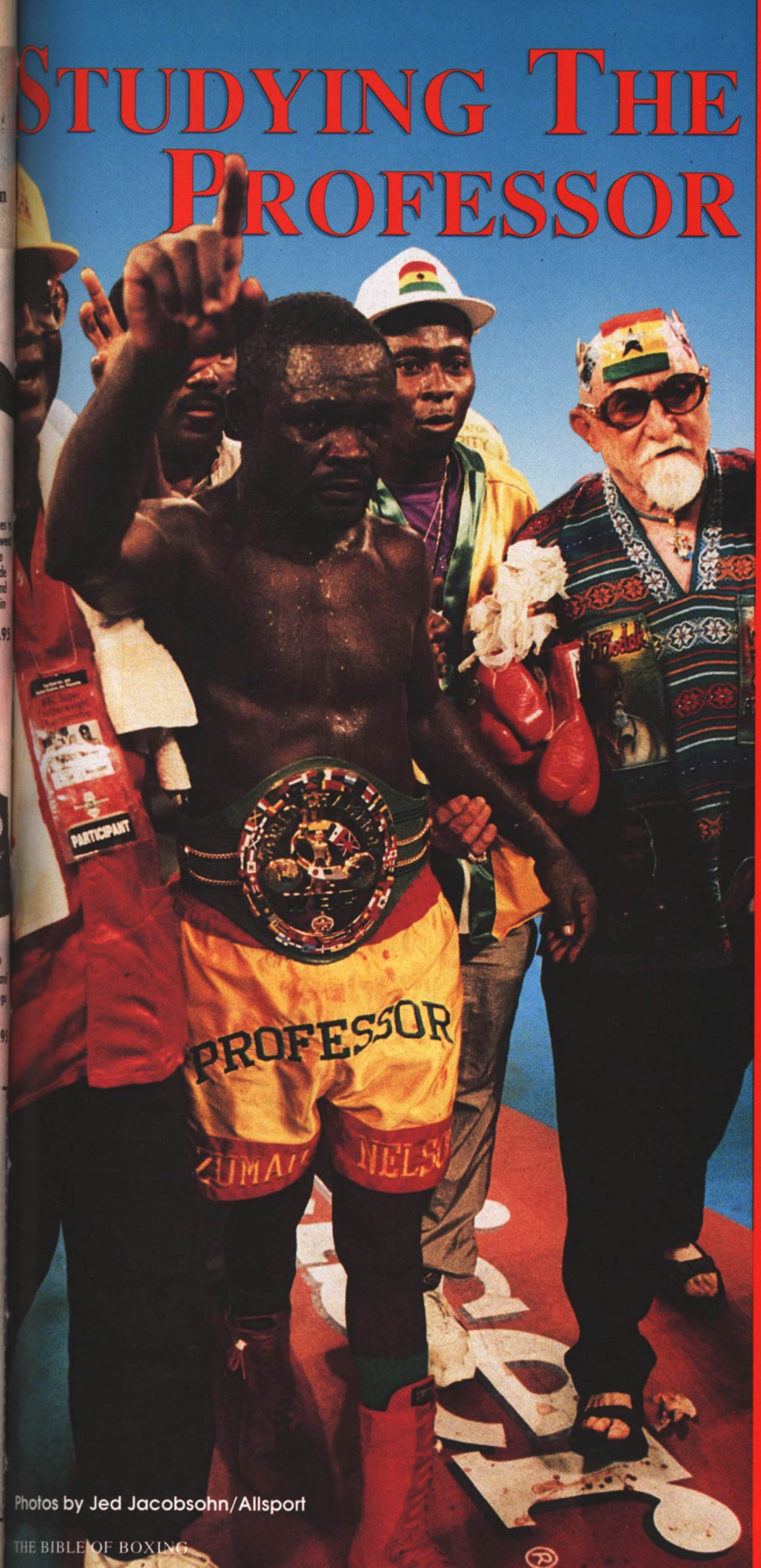
STUDYING THE PROFESSOR



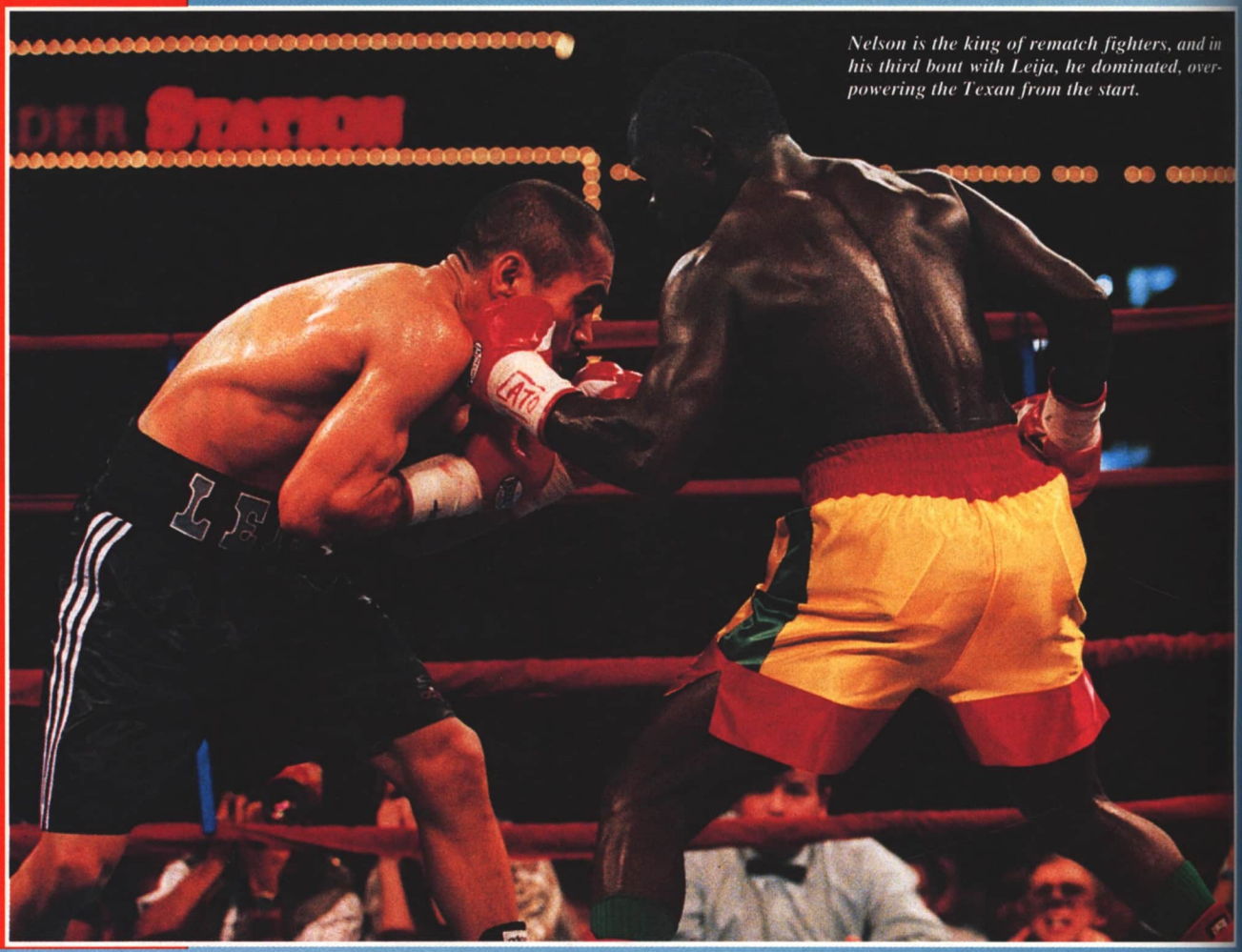
Photos by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

WHAT MAKES AZUMAH NELSON GREAT

By Nigel Collins

The fight was still an hour away when Azumah Nelson emerged from his trailer, surrounded by a boisterous contingent of chanting, drum-banging Ghanaians, and began to shadowbox. The temperature was well above 100 degrees in the parking lot of the Boulder Station Casino, where an outdoor stadium had been erected for the fight, and it wasn't long before sweat was cascading down the wizened face of the 37-year-old WBC super featherweight champion.

"At first, I assumed that Azumah had made a mistake, and thought his fight was on next. But there was still a 10-rounder to go before the main



Nelson is the king of rematch fighters, and in his third bout with Leija, he dominated, overpowering the Texan from the start.

event," said Nelson's old pal Cornelius Boza-Edwards, the former WBC super featherweight champion. "He just kept going, two, three, four rounds. Then he switched to hitting the pads. He kept it up for at least 45 minutes, and finally I said, 'Azumah, you're gonna leave your fight in the parking lot.' He said, 'Don't worry about it,' and just kept dancing and shadowboxing. It was almost like he was in a trance."

Who knows? Maybe Nelson was in a trance. There's a good reason why practically all cultures have marched into battle to the beat of the drum. But don't think for a moment that Nelson didn't know exactly what he was doing. Just a few yards away, still comfortably ensconced in his air-conditioned trailer, was challenger Jesse James Leija, who had to be aware of what was transpiring directly outside of his window. It was a masterful psych job. Apparently, "The Professor" also has a degree in psychology to go along with his Ph.D. in fisticuffs.

Right before Nelson entered the ring on June 1, he peered into HBO's cameras and mouthed two words: "One round." By the time the opening bell rang, Nelson was already in the zone, and he let Leija know right away who was the boss, connecting with a hard right to the head. He kept the pressure on his 29-year-old challenger, and in the closing moments of the round landed a booming right to the side of Leija's jaw that spun the recipient in a semicircle and then to the floor.

"Azumah throws that right of his like he's throwing a baseball," noted Boza-Edwards. "He misses a lot, but all it takes is one."

Indeed, had the blow landed earlier in the round, Nelson's prediction of a first-round victory would have surely proved accurate. Leija was thoroughly buzzed. However, the bell sounded immediately after Leija dragged himself erect at the count of nine, forestalling any followup by the champion.

As drums throbbed incessantly in the background, Nelson continued to press the attack in the second, dishing out steady, if unspectacular, punishment. Leija still didn't seem completely recovered from the knockdown punch, but by the third he was punching back effectively, especially with left hooks. And when the challenger flurried late in the fourth, those unacquainted with Nelson's history could be forgiven for thinking that the old-timer might be running out of steam.

Leija landed several snappy rights early in the fifth, straight, searing shots that would have discouraged a lot of fighters. But Nelson was unfazed, and midway into the round, he lashed out with a looping left hook that slammed into Leija's right eye like the business end of an ax. The punch ripped open a gash on the eyelid, and for all intent and purposes sealed the challenger's fate.

Nelson intensified his attack, mixing in strength-sapping bodyshots and jolting uppercuts, which further added to his adversary's misery. At the end of the round, Leija wore the hangdog look of a beaten man.

Another left hook jarred Leija early in

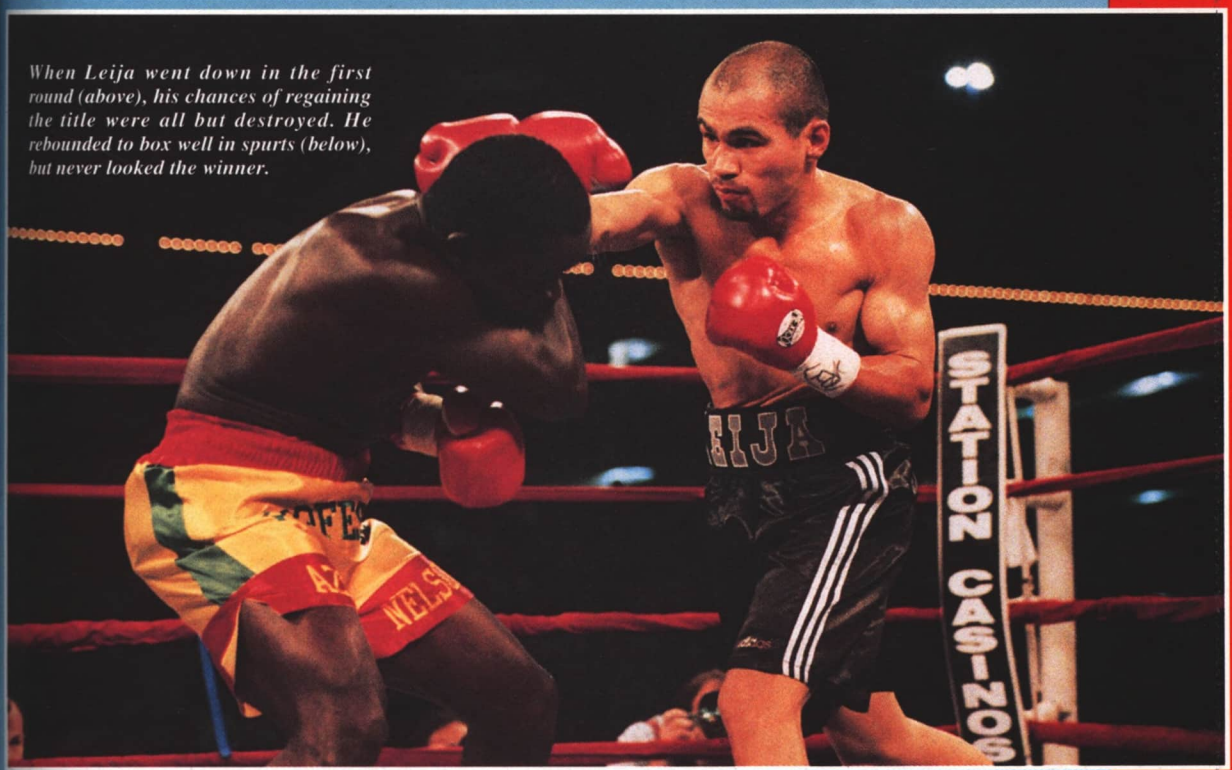
the sixth, and although he did the best he could to fight back, it was hopeless. Nelson had tasted blood and went for the finish, connecting cleanly with a series of unanswered blows. It didn't sit well with the pro-Leija crowd, but referee Richard Steele (USA) had no alternative but to stop the fight, and at the 1:58 mark, he waved it off. Despite angry chants of "bulls___" from the bleachers, there was no argument from the loser or his corner.

The judges were Angel Luis Guzman (Puerto Rico), Richie Davies (England), and Jerry Roth (USA).

Nelson had been particularly malicious in his prefight boasts, threatening to put Leija "in a coma," and was only marginally mellower afterward.

"I wanted to take him out in the first, but I changed my mind," claimed Nelson, who was leading 49-46 and 48-46 (twice) after five rounds. "I wanted to punish him for a while because people think I'm old and that I can't go the distance. I wanted the people to know that the stamina I have is unquestionable."

(Continued on page 68)



When Leija went down in the first round (above), his chances of regaining the title were all but destroyed. He rebounded to box well in spurts (below), but never looked the winner.

Photos by Al Bello/Allsport

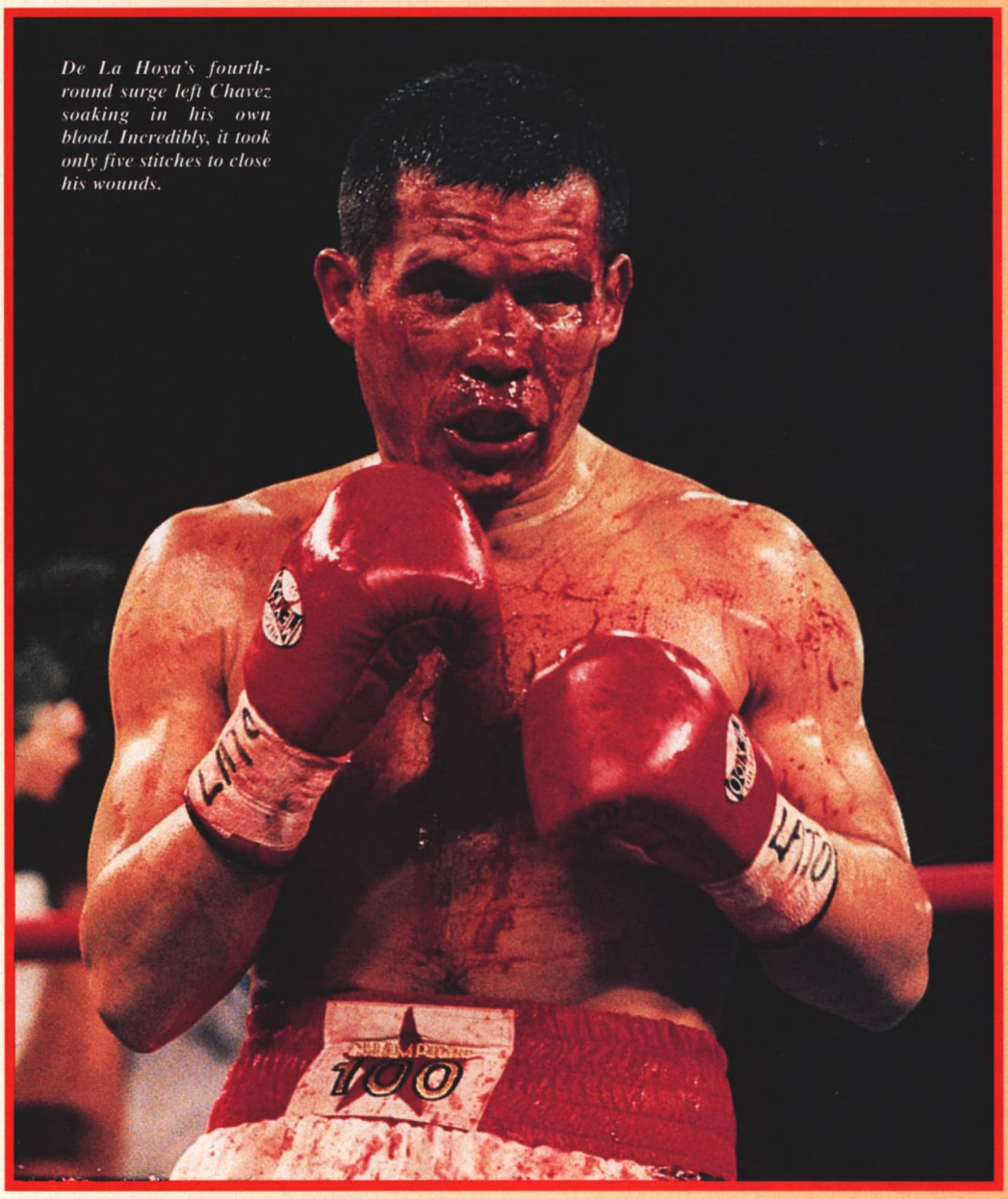
Is Everything . . .

De La Hoya carried a low guard, forcing Chavez to aim for his head (left). But "J.C. Superstar" rarely got the chance to attack; he was unable to get past De La Hoya's sterling jab (below).

AND OSCAR'S TIMING IS PERFECT!

By Steve Farhood

On the morning after Oscar De La Hoya's fourth-round TKO of defending WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez, Bob Arum was chatting with a handful of boxing writers at Caesars Palace. Everyone was waiting for Chavez' arrival and the beginning of the Mexican's press conference.



De La Hoya's fourth-round surge left Chavez soaking in his own blood. Incredibly, it took only five stitches to close his wounds.

Unlike Don King, who thrives on happenstance, Arum's strength is long-range planning. His greatest accomplishments—developing the long-ignored Marvin Hagler into a superfight attraction, resurrecting the career of Roberto Duran—came step-by-step. And now the best of all opportunities lay before him. On this blindingly bright Las Vegas morning, "Bottom-Line Bob" was swimmingly in the black.

"You got a kid who's got no bad habits," Arum said of De La Hoya, whom he's promoted for four years, or from the start of "The Golden Boy's" pro career. "He's got a willingness to learn; what gives me a lot of confidence is that he knows what he doesn't know. He's dedicated in training. And he has enormous natural talents. In the next five years, he can become one of the greatest fighters of all-time and retire as a young man."

Arum may have been lying yesterday, but he was telling the truth today. The promoter left out only one thing—or maybe it was understood: In developing a superstar, timing is everything. And in that regard, De La Hoya is one blessed fighter.

For Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali, and Sugar Ray Leonard, timing was related more closely to fate and destiny than luck. It seems no different for De La Hoya. That doesn't mean, of course, that those who resent his success won't label him lucky. That's always going to be the case. Just ask Leonard.

In his championship match at the 1992 Olympic Games, De La Hoya wasn't lucky to beat Germany's Marco Rudolph, who, one year earlier, had outpointed him at the world championships. The stakes in Barcelona were enormous; in 1990, before De La Hoya's mom died of cancer at age 38, Oscar had promised her he'd deliver the gold. His triumph was the first hint of his willingness to embrace pressure.

Timing? Thus far, at least, De La Hoya's career is evidence that who you fight sometimes isn't as important as when you fight him. Given his amateur credentials, it was suggested by the normally staid *Los Angeles Times* that De La Hoya challenge for a world title in his pro debut. Sanity prevailed, but only briefly; before De La Hoya had been a pro for a year, there was talk of a showdown vs. then-undefeated WBA junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez. When you consider how green the De La Hoya machine was, it's frightening to think what pieces might have fallen off had he been matched too tough, too early.

When De La Hoya finally did fight Hernandez, he was 18-0 and already a former world lightweight champion. Hernandez, who lasted six rounds, was the third in a string of big-name opponents. First came John-John Molina, whose roughhousing tactics underlined De La Hoya's inexperience. Still, The Golden Boy won on points. Next up was Rafael Ruelas, whose second-round kayo loss temporarily silenced the critics who claimed De La Hoya was fighting only blown-up junior lightweights. After Los Angeles rival Hernandez came earnest but outgunned and undersized Texan Jesse James Leija. Again, two rounds and out.

These bouts, big fights all, were mere leadins to "Ultimate Glory," De La Hoya's June 7 showdown with Chavez.

Timing? Hispanics are the largest-growing population base in the United States. In his five biggest fights to date, De La Hoya has faced five Hispanic opponents, including Chavez, an icon, and the preeminent Mexican fighter of his era. De La Hoya's next opponent, undefeated former lightweight champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez, is also Mexican. So how does De La Hoya, a Mexican-American and a native of East Los Angeles, want to be viewed? For Ultimate Glory, he entered the

DE LA HOYA-CHAVEZ: WANNA MAKE A BET ON IT?

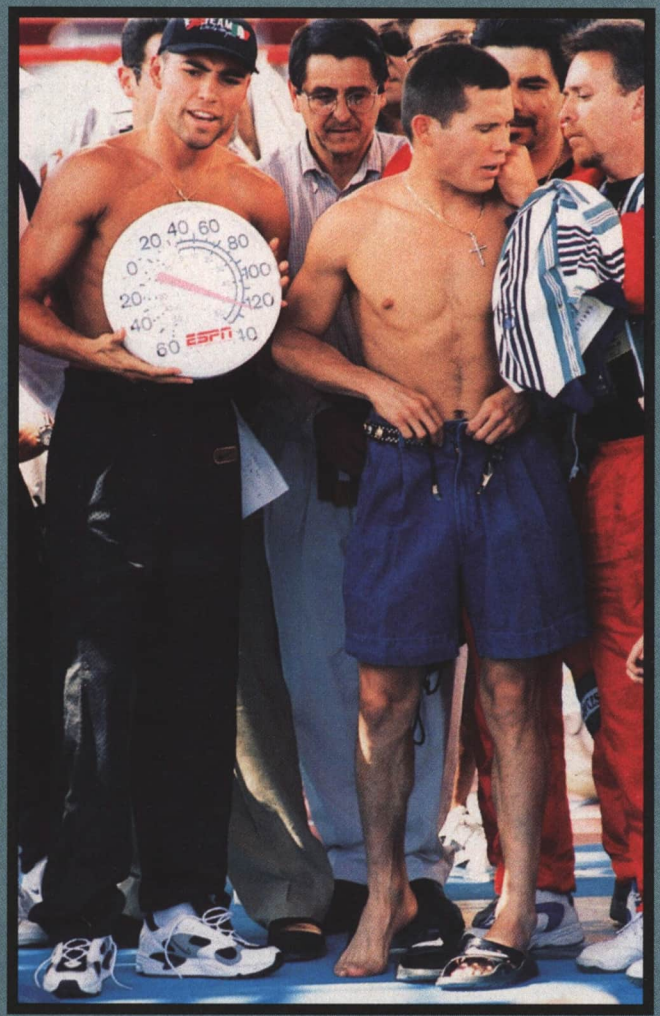
How big a fight was De La Hoya-Chavez? In almost every way, it was the biggest non-heavyweight fight in history.

For starters, consider that the fight shattered the all-time Nevada betting mark, which had been established in 1987, when Sugar Ray Leonard-Marvin Hagler drew $25-million worth of action. "Ultimate Glory" recorded more than $32-million in bets, with Chavez the emotional choice and De La Hoya the logical play. The closing price at Caesars Palace: De La Hoya minus-$225 and Chavez plus-$200.

Six-figure bets were common, with Kirk Kerkorian, who heads the MGM Grand, reportedly wagering a cool $1-million on Chavez, and Don King, Chavez' former promoter, dropping $600,000 on the Mexican. Richie Baccelleri, who manages Caesars' Olympia race and sports book, said the volume "was so intense on the afternoon of the fight that lines for high rollers was elbow to elbow at the $5,000 and $10,000 windows. The lines almost backed out of the sports book. The volume was tremendously balanced, but all the money in the last four hours was on De La Hoya."

Jimmy Vaccaro, director of The Mirage's race and sports book, reported the two largest plays were both for $200,000, one each on De La Hoya and Chavez. "There were plenty of $70,000, $60,000, and $50,000 plays, mostly on De La Hoya," Vaccaro said. "I thought we'd get a lot of money late on Chavez, but it never came."

Oddsmakers from Las Vegas to Reno to Lake Tahoe to Laughlin doubt there'll be a rematch. If there is, they said they'll make De La Hoya an 8-1 favorite if the fight is held in Las Vegas, and a 5-1 choice if the site is in Mexico.



As for Top Rank promoter Bob Arum, who, blaming widespread piracy of pay-per-view signals, chose to broadcast the fight almost solely on closed-circuit, a combination of a $7-million Caesars Palace site fee and $12-million in guarantees from closed-circuit exhibitors covered the fighters' purses. Chavez was promised $9-million, and De La Hoya $8.8-million. Given their percentage deals and the success of the promotion, both probably grossed between $11- and $12-million.

Arum reported as many as 2 million closed-circuit seats sold in the USA, at an average price of $35. About 1.5 million seats were sold in Mexico, at an average of $10. "That would be about $80-million total," said the promoter, "far exceeding anything we ever did with pay-per-view."

Asked whether De La Hoya's next bout, a proposed defense in September vs. unbeaten Mexican Miguel Angel Gonzalez, would be aired on closed-circuit or pay-per-view, Arum was noncommittal.

Tickets to De La Hoya-Chavez, priced from $100 to $700, sold out in 16 days. The paid attendance was 14,738, with an additional 529 comps. The live gate was $7,579,100. More than 1,500 press credentials were issued, a record for Caesars Palace.

–Jack Welsh

ring wearing a robe that was split down the middle, half-Mexican flag, half-stars and stripes. (Incredibly, in the aftermath of the Chavez fight, an overzealous resident of Mexico City has brought suit against De La Hoya for defaming the Mexican flag.) And at the postfight press conference, he flawlessly answered questions in English, then Spanish.

"I don't think there's any question that Oscar's going to be a major American personality," sports agent Leigh Steinberg, a De La Hoya adviser, told *Sports Illustrated*. "He'll be a major marketing force in this country."

Judging by those Mennen Speed Stick commercials, De La Hoya is on his way.

As for De La Hoya's popularity in Mexico, and with U.S.-based Mexican-Nationals, his chop job of Chavez probably didn't help. Despite a ring demeanor that is much more Pipino Cuevas than Maromero Paez, he is perceived by the Mexican fans as being too much style and not enough blood. Or to put it another way, Cuevas never broke camp to play *golf*.

"Coming into the Chavez fight, I'd say 95 percent of the Mexican-Nationals were against De La Hoya," said Fernando Paramo, a boxing writer and columnist for *La Opinion*, the largest-circulation Spanish language newspaper in the United States. "Beating Chavez probably won over only another five percent. It's a cultural situation, not a sports situation."

De La Hoya's failure to satisfy the south-of-the-border set doesn't seem to concern Arum, who knows where his pesos come from, or just as importantly, where they *don't* come from.

"When he's finished with the Mexicans and starts fighting black guys," Arum said, "the Mexicans will be with him."

Timing? What were the chances that, upon realizing longtime trainer and friend Robert Alcazar could take him only so far, De La Hoya would be able to secure the services of the scholarly Jesus Rivero? Nicknamed "The Professor," the Mexican trainer, who guided legendary flyweight champion Miguel Canto, had been retired for 20 years. Upon hearing that De La Hoya was seeking help, manager and promoter Rafael Mendoza hooked him up with Rivero, who has refined The Golden Boy's boxing skills, drastically improved his defense, and introduced him to the works of not only Willie Pep, but also Willie Shakespeare. Maybe De La Hoya hasn't yet memorized Hamlet's soliloquy, but at least he now knows Lady Macbeth isn't one of the round-card girls at the Great Western Forum.

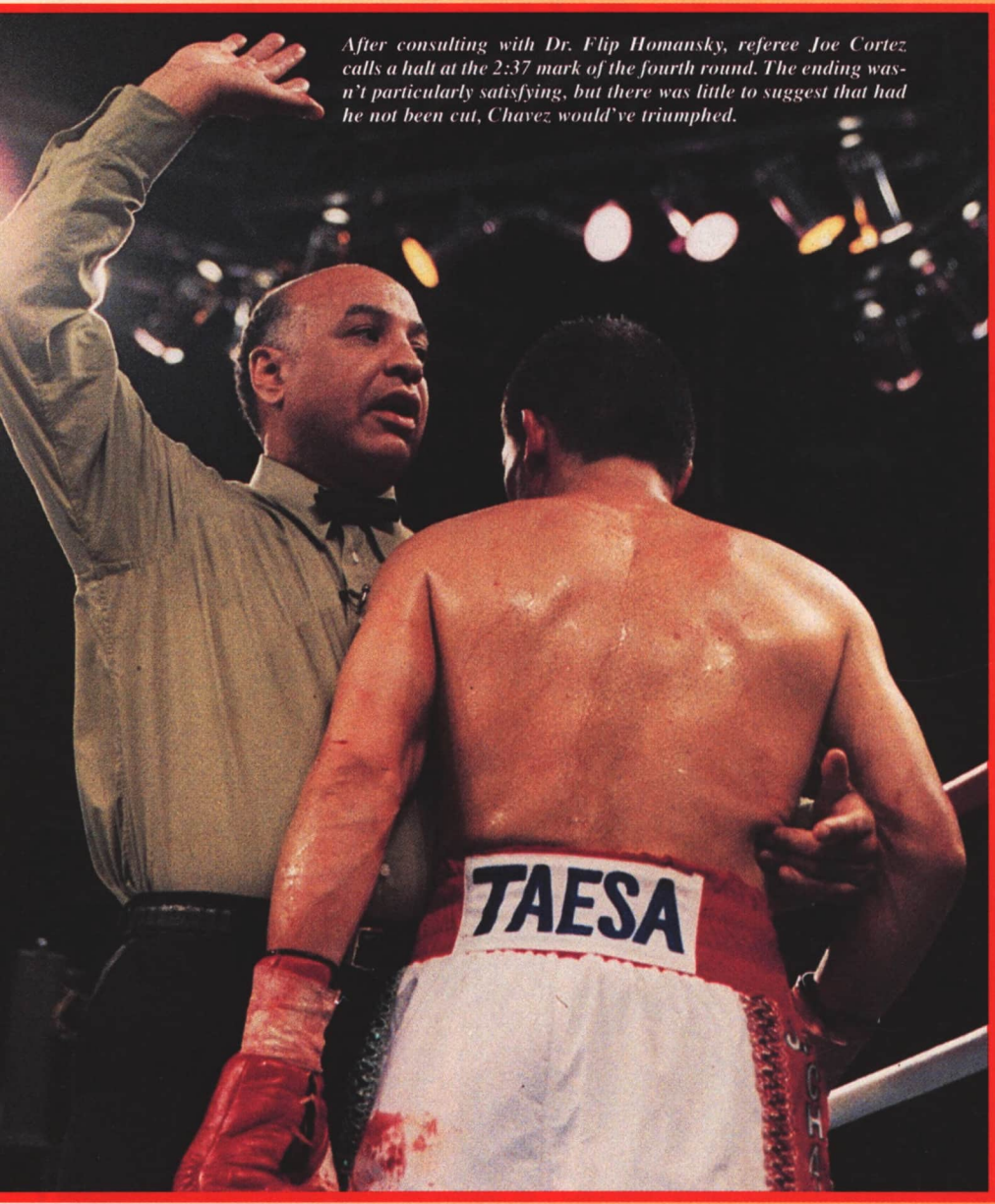
"Rivero is the best professor I've ever seen, and that includes Eddie Futch, Emanuel Steward, and Nacho Beristain," said Mendoza.

It was about the time of the Ruelas fight that Rivero and De La Hoya first teamed up. Rivero was only an adviser then. For the Chavez fight, he was promoted to head trainer, though on fight night, Alcazar served as chief second.

"What happens with Oscar and The Professor is incredible," said Arum. "He says Oscar will peak in about a year."

Judging by what De La Hoya showed against Chavez, that's a scary thought. De La Hoya was a 2-1 favorite—the fight broke the Nevada betting record set by Leonard-Hagler in 1987—but it was 110 degrees at the weigh-in, and as tight and intense as he looked, it seemed he might melt away before the opening bell.

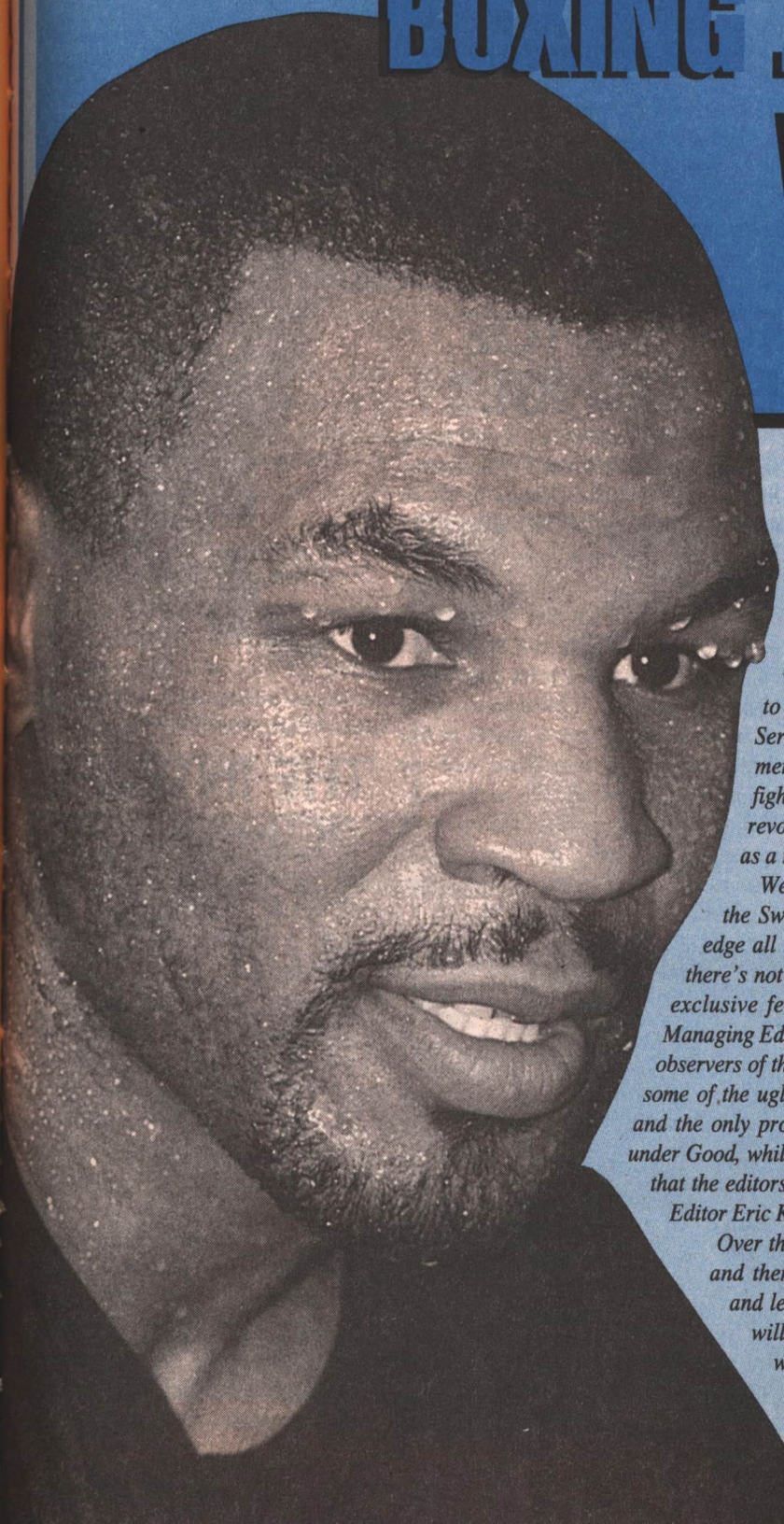
(Continued on page 71)



After consulting with Dr. Flip Homansky, referee Joe Cortez calls a halt at the 2:37 mark of the fourth round. The ending wasn't particularly satisfying, but there was little to suggest that had he not been cut, Chavez would've triumphed.

EXCLUSIVE FEATURE

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT BOXING . . . AND WHAT'S BAD



Compiled by
Steve Farhood & Nigel Collins

There's a saying we find ourselves repeating over and over: "Only in boxing." The fight game is unique, with highs and lows other sports cannot hope to provide. For instance, not even the World Series or the Super Bowl generates the excitement of a big-time heavyweight championship fight. Conversely, is there anything in sports as revoltingly corrupt as boxing politics or as tragic as a ring fatality?

We at THE RING have never been apologists for the Sweet Science. While we're quick to acknowledge all that is good about boxing, we never pretend there's not more than enough bad to go around. In this exclusive feature, Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood and Managing Editor Nigel Collins, both of whom are longtime observers of the fight game, examine the good, the bad, and some of the ugly, too. The entries are subjective, of course, and the only problem came when Farhood listed something under Good, while Collins listed the same thing under Bad. So that the editors didn't have to reach for the mitts, Associate Editor Eric Karabell cast the tiebreaking vote.

Over the next 22 pages, we hope to make you smile, and then frown. When you're done, drop us a line and let us know what we left out. We're sure there will be plenty, because in the wonderful, terrible world of boxing, almost everything demands a response.

WHAT'S *GOOD* ABOUT BOXING

THE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUT

Nothing else in sports is quite like it. It happens in the blink of an eye, but can change the course of history. For the fighter who throws it, it's the ultimate display of dominance. For the fighter on the receiving end, it's like walking in front of a truck. One second he's fine, maybe even winning the fight, and then ... *Boom!* He's outta there. Instant karma. For the fan, it's like standing next to an atomic explosion and not even getting your eyebrows singed. All you can say is WOW!

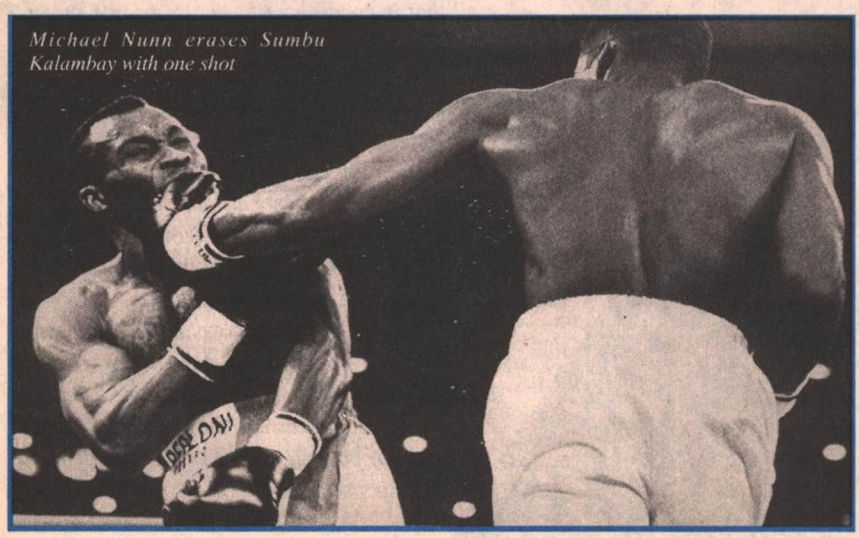
HISTORY LIVES

The greats of the past are endlessly discussed, analyzed, and ranked as if they were still fighting. History lives on as part of the day-to-day life of the sport. Some fighters make such an everlasting impact, they become not only icons, but reference points, as relevant today as when they threw their last punch. How many times have you heard a fighter say, "I wanna be just like Sugar Ray Robinson," or a broadcaster use Joe Louis' old line, "He can run but he can't hide"? Every Italian heavyweight is "the new Marciano," every tough guy "the new Sonny Liston."

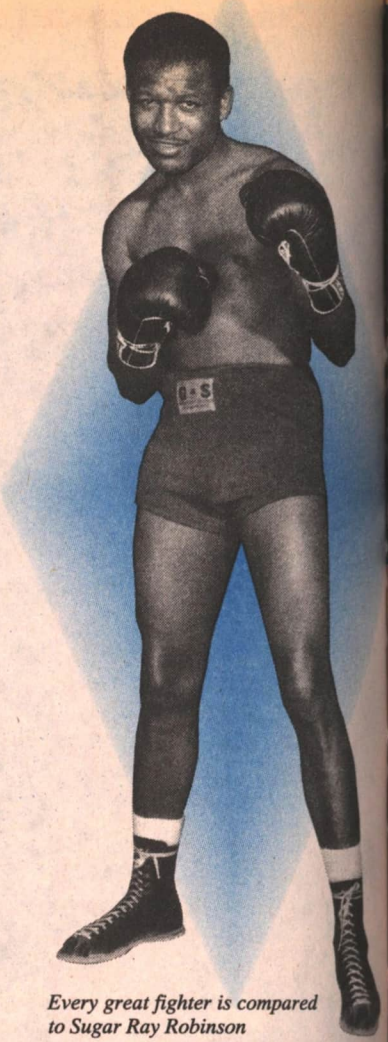
Boxing's deep roots also provide a much-needed anchor for a sport that is frequently awash with controversy. Just the fact that boxing can trace the lineage of the heavyweight championship back to 1719 (James Figg) gives it a certain legitimacy that even its severest critics are forced to acknowledge.

TOE-TO-TOE EXCHANGES

At it's most rudimentary level, boxing satisfies a primordial need. Whether we like to admit it or not, violence thrills us. (Why do you think it's so tough to tear your eyes away from a grisly car wreck?) And few things are as thrilling as the sight of two men trading punches. It's an exhilarating spectacle, and the excitement builds, feeding on itself as the punches fly back and forth. The fighters seem caught up in some sort of trance, unable to free themselves from a do-or-die course that has placed them squarely in harm's way. The action is so frenzied, the intensity spreads to the spectators, often leaving them as limp as the fighters. It doesn't get any better.



Michael Nunn erases Sumbu Kalambay with one shot

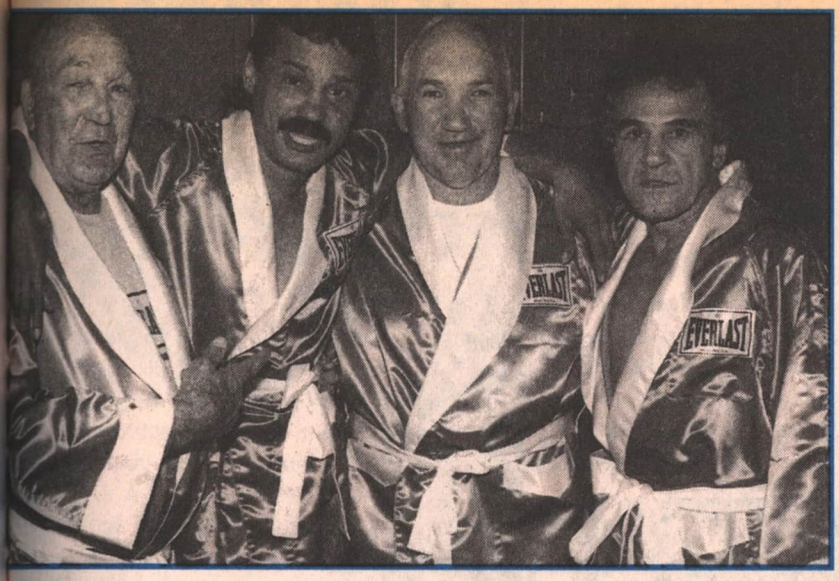


Every great fighter is compared to Sugar Ray Robinson

THE INTERNATIONAL BOXING HALL OF FAME

Nestled in the tiny hamlet of Canastota, New York, the IBHF opened its doors on June 10, 1989, and inducted its first members the following year. Since then, the annual Induction Weekend has become one of the most anticipated events of the year, drawing 10,000 enthusiasts to participate in a series of events, including a banquet of champions, golf tournament, memorabilia show, parade, and, of course, the induction ceremony.

What the IBHF lacks in high-tech displays and Madison Avenue sheen, it more than makes up for in homespun sincerity and enthusiasm. Perhaps former light-



Hangin' at the Hall: Carmen Basilio, Alexis Arguello, Gene Fullmer, and Eder Jofre

weight champion Carlos Ortiz put it best at the '95 banquet, when he said that he'd finally found a place where he belonged. Any boxing fan who visits the IBHF is sure to feel the same.

FIGHT FAX

Want to know the up-to-date record of any active fighter in the world? Don't call THE RING. (We haven't published a record book since 1987.) Instead, dial Fight Fax (609-782-8868). For a nominal fee, the New Jersey-based company will fax you the fight-by-fight record pronto. Fight Fax also annually publishes *The Boxing Record Book*. The 1996 edition ($55) is 640 pages and carries the records of approximately 6,000 fighters, including many former world champions. Great bathroom reading.

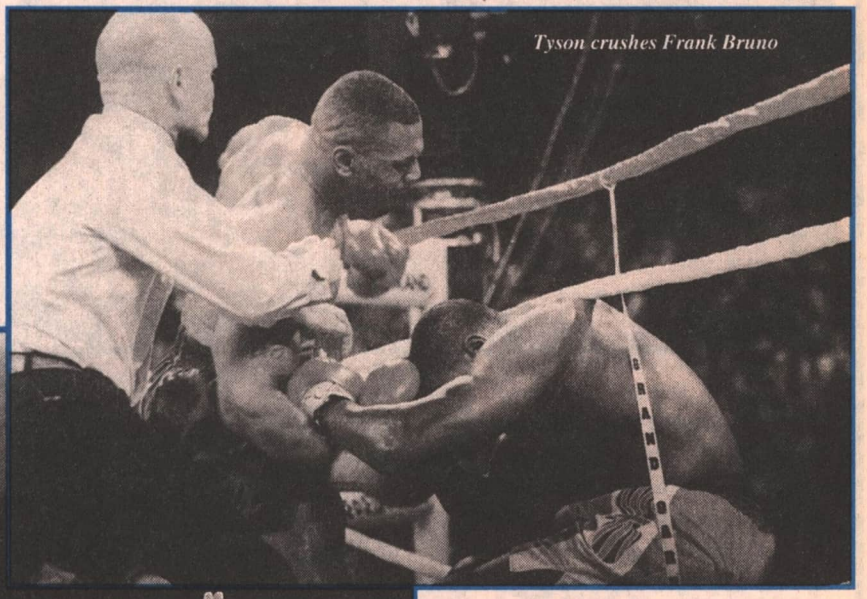
Moreover, in one sense, Fight Fax serves as boxing's conscience. Promoters and television stations that might be tempted to fabricate a fighter's record have somebody looking over their shoulders.

UPSETS

From 42-1 underdog Buster Douglas knocking out Mike Tyson to journeyman Willy Salazar handing Danny Romero his first defeat, an upset is the wild card that keeps the game honest. It also restores faith in the art of matchmaking.

MIKE TYSON

Love him or hate him, you have to give Tyson his propers. He's the industry's biggest moneymaker, the fiery star around which the entire boxing galaxy revolves. Take him away, and the sucking sound you hear is the life going out of the heavyweight division.



Tyson crushes Frank Bruno

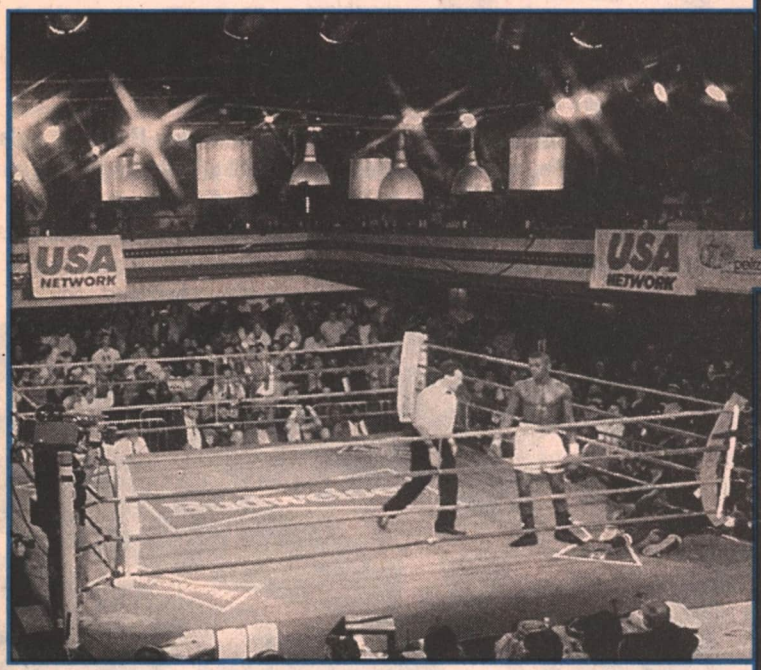
At 42-1, Douglas found the winner's circle

THE BLUE HORIZON

You don't need a time machine to travel back to the 1940s. All you need is a seat at this fabled venue in North Philadelphia. But you had better buy your ticket ($35) at least a month in advance, because the last 11 shows (and 18 of the last 20) at the 1,200-seat hall were SRO several weeks before the opening bell.

WHAT'S *GOOD* ABOUT BOXING

Fight night at the Blue Horizon is like stepping into a scene from *The Setup* or *Body And Soul*. From the shabby dressing rooms to the rickety balcony that overhangs the ring, the joint drips ambience. The crowd is noisy, knowledgeable, and not the least bit bashful about letting its feelings be known. But best of all are the fights. Promoter Russell Peltz is famous for two things: His love of a slugfest and getting the house fighters knocked off.

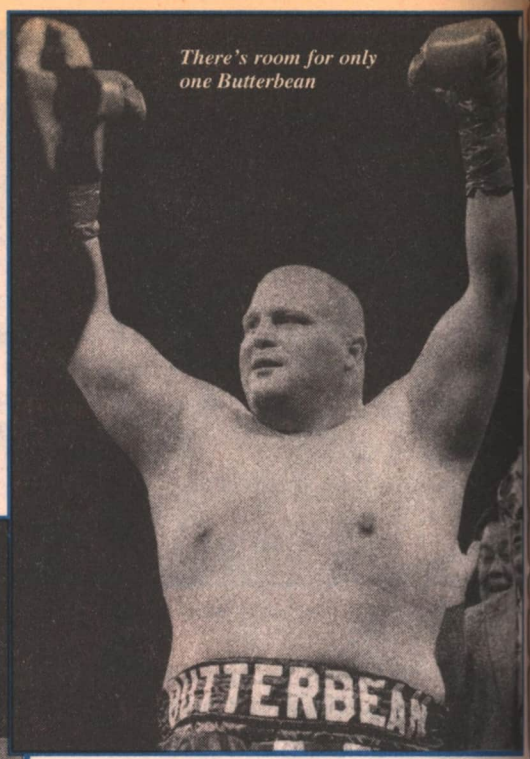


The view at the Blue

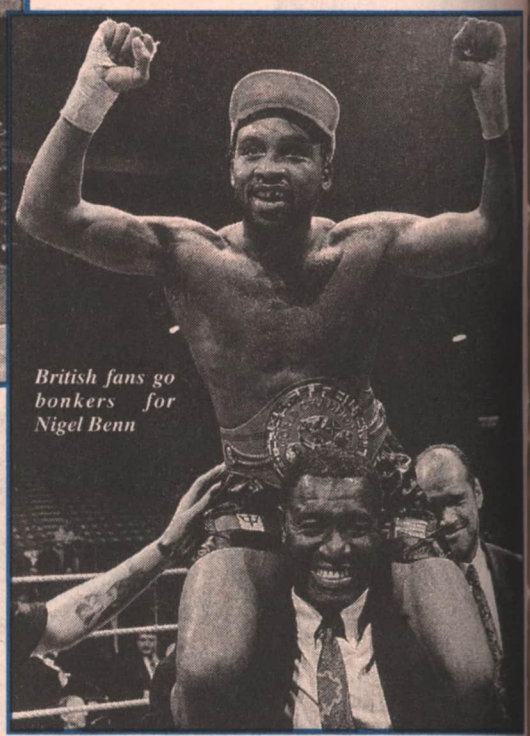
It all adds up to a unique experience, a fistic flashback to a time when practically every neighborhood had its own hole-in-the-wall fight club. However, don't confuse fight club with clubfighters. More than 20 future or former world champions have fought at the Blue, including Harold Johnson, Curtis Cokes, Matthew Saad Muhammad, Jeff Chandler, Tim Witherspoon, Frankie Randall, Bernard Hopkins, and Arturo Gatti. If you're only going to go to one live fight in your life, head for the Blue Horizon.

BUTTER-BEAN

He's fat, he's funny, and he comes to fight. And even if you're a stick-in-the-mud purist who frowns on the carnival-like atmosphere that surrounds The Bean, you have to admit he's good for business. People who don't watch boxing have been tuning in when the self-proclaimed "King Of The Four-Rounders" is on the tube.



There's room for only one Butterbean



British fans go bonkers for Nigel Benn

THOSE BOXING-CRAZY BRITS

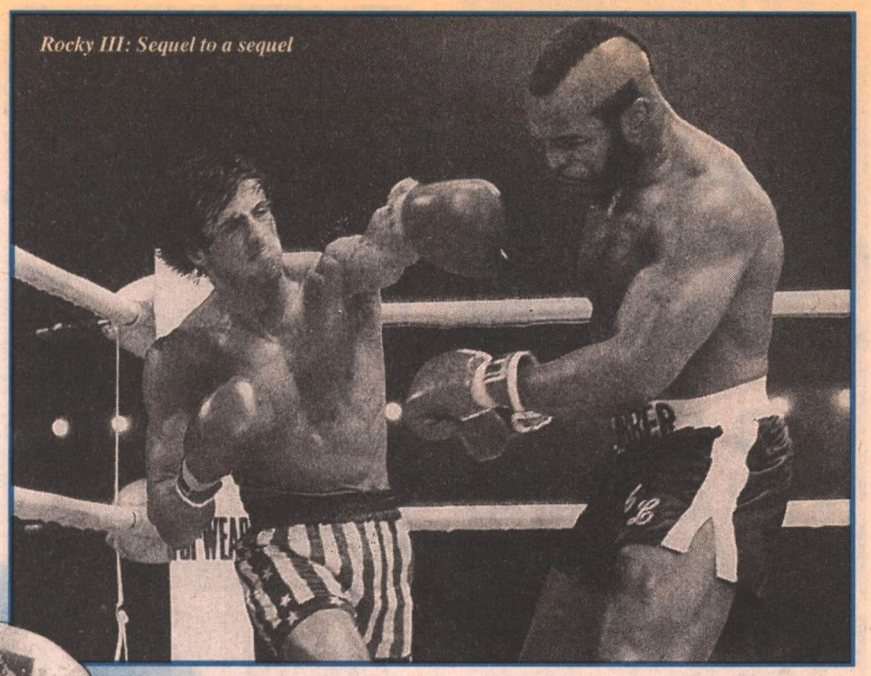
Although certain forms of pugilism can be traced back to the time when the Pharaohs ruled Egypt, boxing as we know it began in 18th-century England. It's almost three hundred years later, and the love affair between the British and boxing is still going strong.

True, the British have not had too much to cheer about in the heavyweight division, but considering the relatively small size of the island, they've produced a startling number of outstanding fighters. But it's the country's passionate fans that make British boxing so special. They

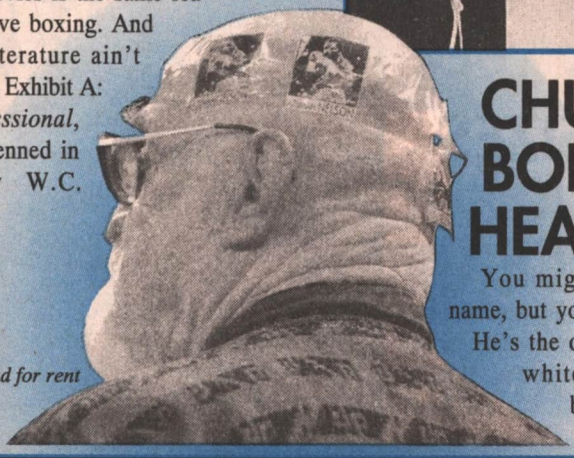
turn out in droves to support their favorites, cheering, singing, waving flags, and generally getting caught up in the fervor of the moment. Pound-for-pound, they're the best in the world.

BOXING MOVIES

Boxing movies are the kings of all sports flicks. Unless you rate *Brian's Song* right up there with *Citizen Kane*, you have to acknowledge that films like *The Harder They Fall, Body And Soul, Raging Bull, Requiem For A Heavyweight,* and *Rocky* blow away the competition. When you stop and think about it, the reason we love good boxing movies is the same reason we love boxing. And boxing literature ain't bad either. Exhibit A: *The Professional*, a novel penned in 1958 by W.C. Heinz.



Rocky III: Sequel to a sequel



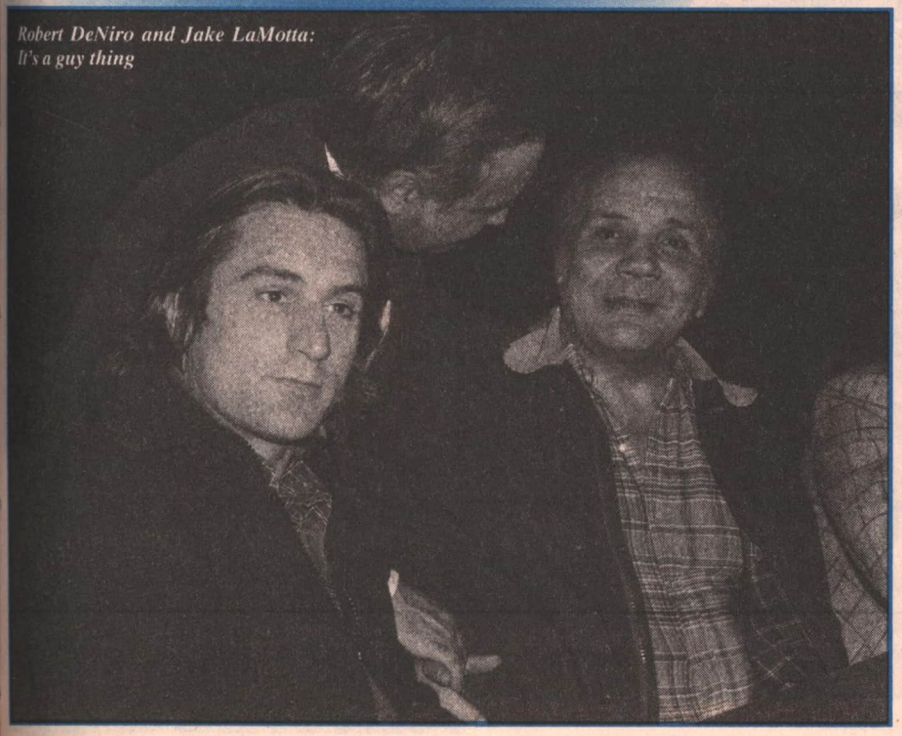
Bodak: Head for rent

CHUCK BODAK'S HEAD

You might not know his name, but you've seen Bodak. He's the old dude with the white beard and the bald head covered with decals. The West Coast cutman is among the finest in the business, but it wasn't until he turned his noggin into a billboard that fans began to notice.

IT'S A GREAT GUY-THING

Outside of sharing a foxhole, there's no better male-bonding experience than a night at the fights. You leave your significant other at home, get together with a bunch of buddies, and carry on like teenagers. There are hot dogs to be scarfed, beers to be chugged, stinky cigars to be smoked, and voluptuous round-card girls to be ogled. Pay-per-view get-togethers aren't bad, either, but for a true thrill, nothing beats the real thing.



Robert DeNiro and Jake LaMotta: It's a guy thing

THERE'S NO OFF-SEASON

Unlike baseball, football, basketball, and hockey, the Sweet Science is a year-round sport. You never get boxing's version of a basketball Jones, have to wait for the start of spring training, or pay full-price to see an exhibition game. After all, there's a fight of the century almost every week.

WHAT'S *GOOD* ABOUT BOXING

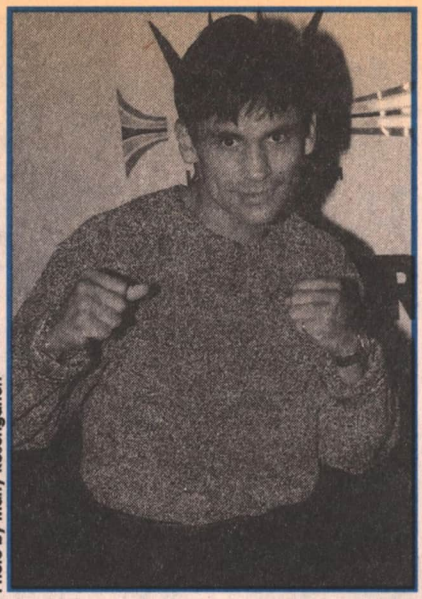


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

At 105 pounds, Ricardo Lopez is a star

While boxing certainly doesn't need 17 weight divisions, the original notion of pairing men of equal size against one another is still a superb concept. It wasn't always that way. Back in the early bare-knuckle days, all fighters were lumped together, regardless of how much they weighed. But in 1851, with the crowning of Nat Langham, the first middleweight champion, everything started to change.

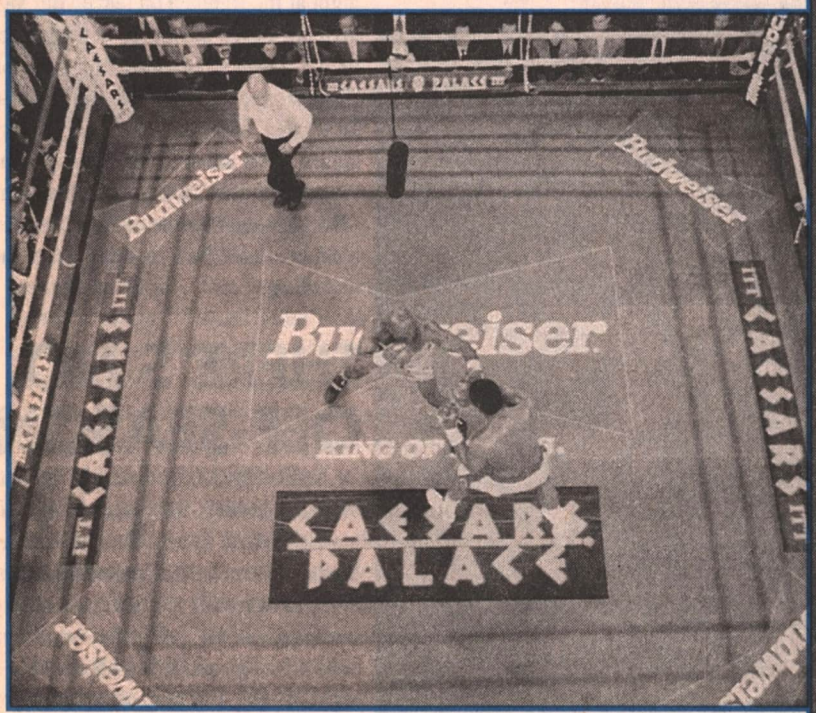
Not only do weight classes create competitive fights, they also make millionaires of athletes who would never otherwise have achieved fame and fortune. Even baseball, the only other major sport featuring players of relatively diverse sizes, doesn't have too many strawweights playing shortstop.

SLO-MOTION REPLAYS AND CREATIVE CAMERA ANGLES

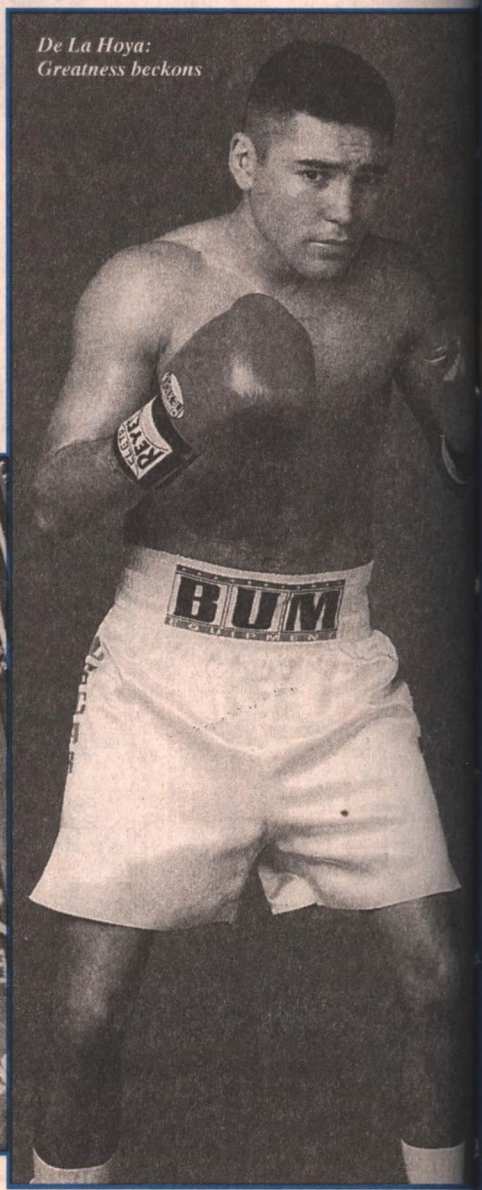
If there's a knockout, you can count on the TV cameras catching it. We now have hand-held cameras on the ring apron, overhead cameras, long-range cameras, and mobile cameras at ringside. And thanks to the likes of the innovative folks at HBO, the technology keeps improving. As far as we're concerned, Steven Spielberg has nothing on Ross Greenburg.

ALL SHAPES AND SIZES HAVE A CHANCE

When was the last time you saw a 135-pound linebacker in the NFL? Or a 108-pound point guard in the NBA?

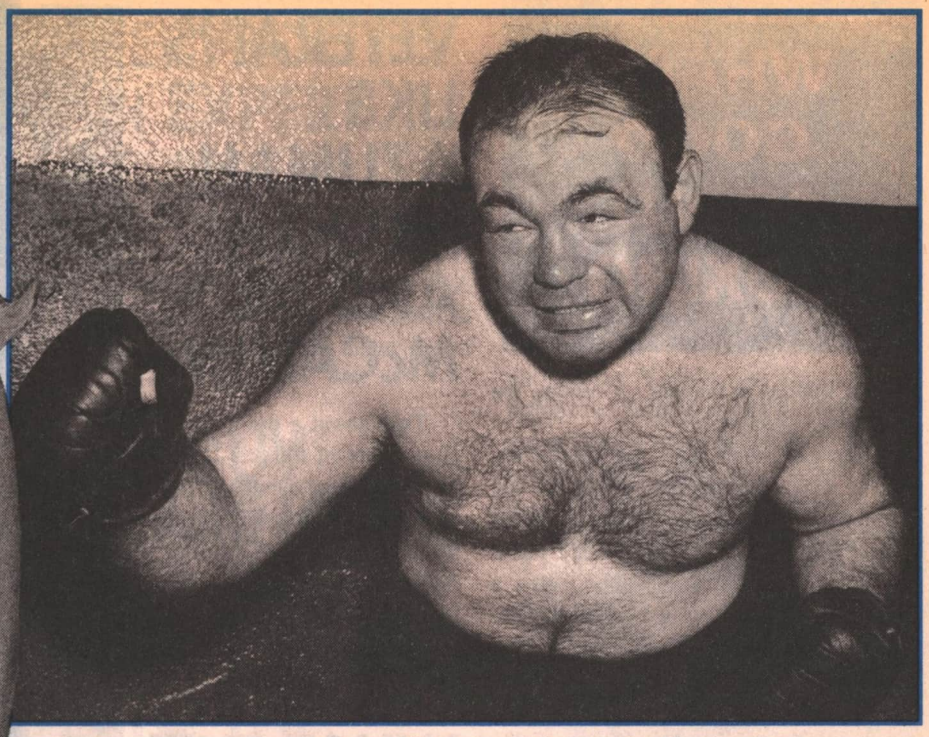


The squared circle provides a lot of viewing angles



De La Hoya: Greatness beckons

Boxing's not all blood and guts



"Two-Ton" Tony Galento didn't know aerobics

ROUND-CARD GIRLS

See accompanying photograph.

NICKNAMES

Boxing's got a million of 'em, and they come in all sorts of classifications: Ethnic (The Ghetto Wizard, The Scotch Wop, The Black Panther); Nationalistic (The Cuban Hawk, The Wild Bull Of The Pampas, The Hard Rock From Down Under); Hometown Heroes (The Louisville Lip, The Astoria Assassin, The Casablanca Clouter); Physically Descriptive (Two-Ton Tony, Old Bones, The Man Of Steel); Stylistically Descriptive (The Human Windmill, Phaintin' Phil, Slapsie Maxie); Animal Association (The Toy Bulldog, The Old Mongoose, The Bobcat); Foodstuff (Mantequilla, Bolillo, Butterbean); Forces Of Nature (The Rochdale Thunderbolt, The Herkimer Hurricane, The Whitechapel Whirlwind); Occupational (The Fighting Marine, The Basque Woodchopper, The Boilermaker); Recycled (Rocky, Kid, Sugar Ray) ... and on and on and on. A bad fighter with a good nickname isn't a total waste.

OSCAR DE LA HOYA

As was the case with Sugar Ray Leonard, even fans turned off by what they perceive as "The Golden Boy's" stuck-up attitude will eventually acknowledge his greatness.

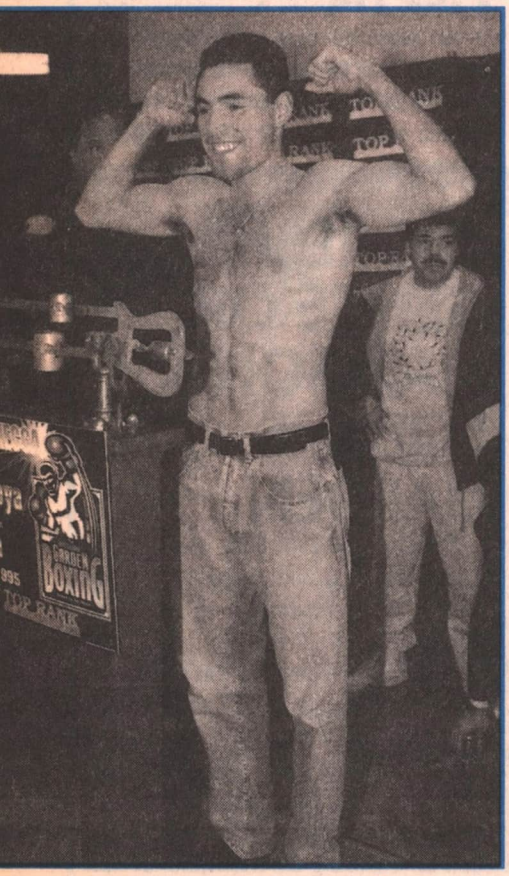
THE RESURGENCE OF MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

There was much wailing and gnashing of teeth when the bottom-line boys closed MSG's boxing department after the final fight card at The Paramount annex (formerly the Felt Forum, now The Theater) in July 1993. It was, to be sure, the end of an era, an almost unthinkable occurrence given the Garden's rich and unparalleled boxing heritage. But after a short hiatus, boxing is back at the most famous arena in the world. The big difference, however, is that instead of MSG promoting its own

WHAT'S *GOOD* ABOUT BOXING

cards, outside promoters are renting the building.

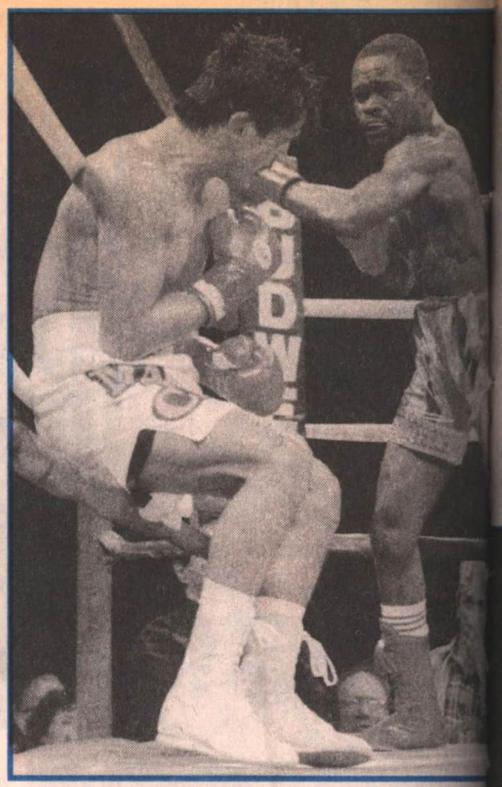
The comeback began last December, when Oscar De La Hoya made his Big Apple debut with a second-round kayo of Jesse James Leija before 16,027 fight-starved New Yorkers. Then came a January card featuring Roy Jones' second-round TKO of Merqui Sosa. Despite blizzard conditions, 11,484 fans braved the elements to watch. The most recent show was even more encouraging, when 17,041 spectators turned out to see a heavyweight tripleheader featuring Lennox Lewis against Ray Mercer. Let's hope this time the Garden party continues forever.



Oscar helped revive boxing at the Mecca

VETERANS LIKE AZUMAH NELSON AND MIKE McCALLUM

Talk about a dying breed! How many of today's fighters are experienced enough to make all the right moves with a minimum of effort? Watching a Nelson or McCallum makes you understand why they call it the Sweet Science. As opposed to, say, watching Butterbean.



Nelson knows all the moves

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO ROOT FOR IN BISMARCK?

Though not every metropolitan area can have a major league sports franchise, practically any city can transform itself into a boxing mecca, provided it has a local favorite who catches the fancy of his friends and neighbors.

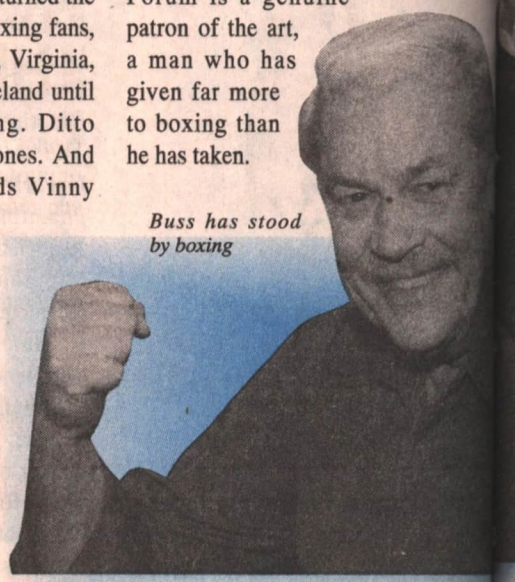
WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill, who singlehandedly turned the citizens of North Dakota into boxing fans, is not an isolated case. Norfolk, Virginia, was pretty much a boxing wasteland until Pernell Whitaker came along. Ditto Pensacola, Florida, and Roy Jones. And do you remember the crowds Vinny Pazienza used to draw in Rhode Island?

THE BOOT-STRAP FACTOR

It's a cliche, but it's true: Boxing provides economically deprived young men with a way to improve their lot. Name one other *legal* way Mike Tyson, Riddick Bowe, and Evander Holyfield could have become multimillionaires. And more importantly, how many thousands of youngsters have been put on a straight path because they were lucky enough to find an inner-city boxing gym?

JERRY BUSS

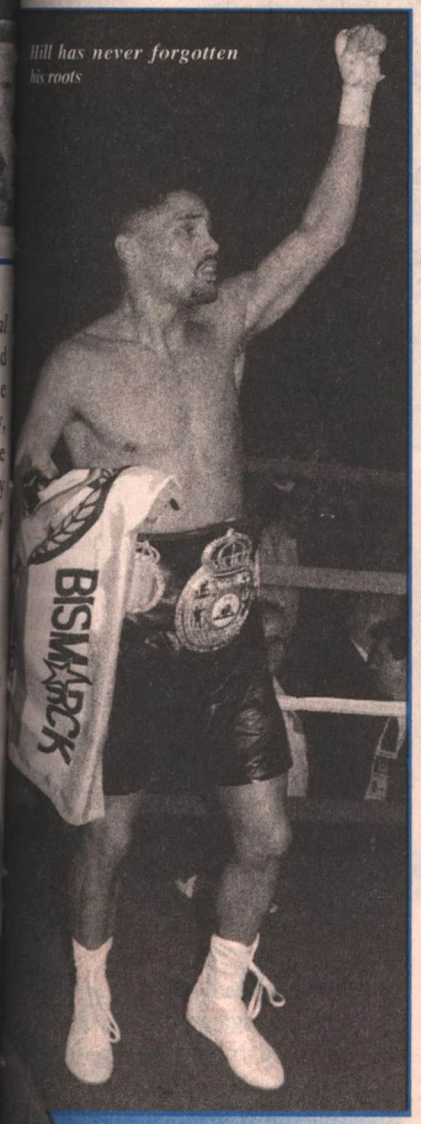
The president of the Great Western Forum is a genuine patron of the art, a man who has given far more to boxing than he has taken.



Buss has stood by boxing

Buss has been a boxing fan since he was a kid who listened to fights on the radio. And after making a killing in real estate, he and his partner, Frank Mariani, decided to invest some of their fortune in the sport they love. Fourteen years and more than 260 fight cards later, boxing at the GWF is booming. But it wasn't always that way.

Buss, who also owns the Los Angeles Lakers, lost money for the first 10 years, but never abandoned the Sweet Science. In a sport populated with bottom-line bureaucrats and bloodsuckers, he is a true friend of boxing.



Hill has never forgotten his roots

EVERYBODY'S AN EXPERT

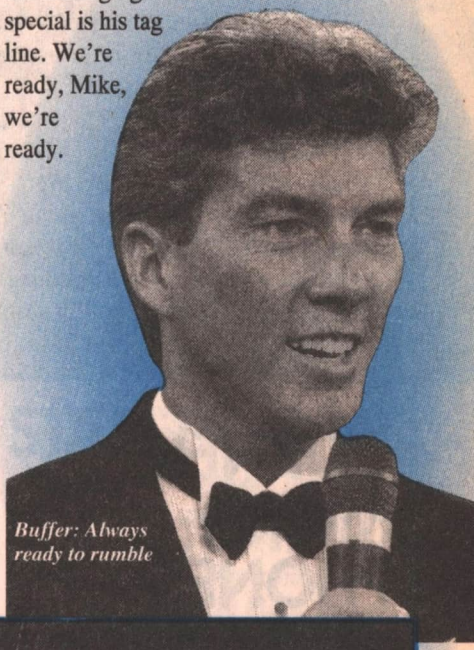
We're not talking rocket science or nucleo-physics here. Just two guys hitting each other in the head. Every fan, whether casual or hard-core, thinks he knows what's going to happen before a big fight, and most people are quick to share their opinions. Makes for good water-cooler chatter.

THE GUY WEARING THE DEER-HEAD WHO COMES INTO THE RING WITH YORI BOY CAMPAS

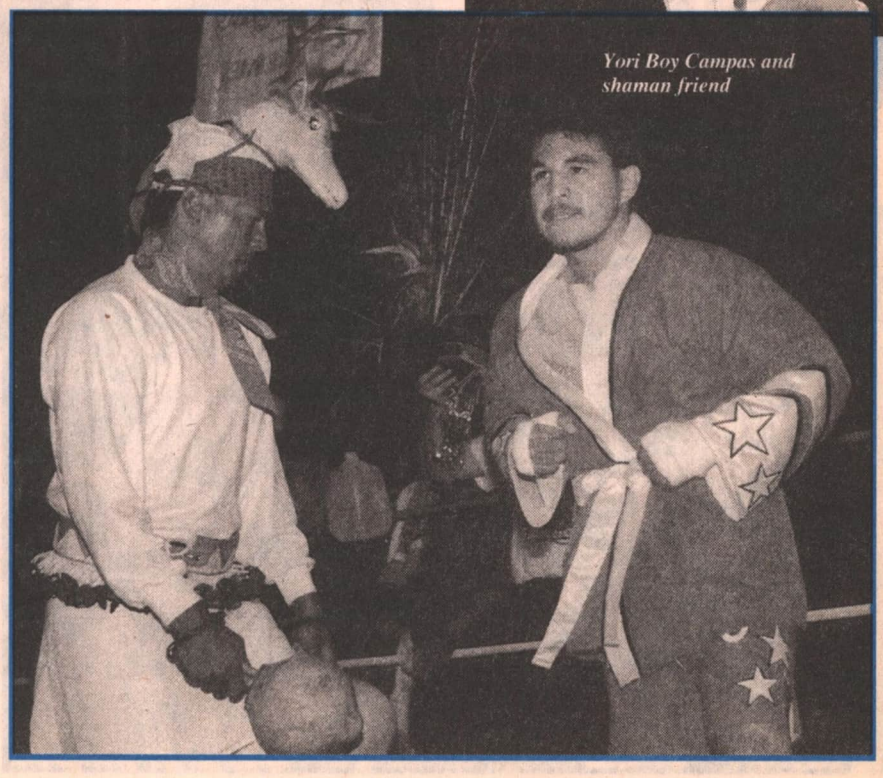
We don't think this needs an explanation.

MICHAEL BUFFER

Mike Tyson and one or two others aside, how many fighters are more recognizable than Buffer? And who's better at moving fans to the edge of their seats? Buffer is the consummate ring announcer, a professional who not only studies his craft, but follows boxing as closely as any die-hard fan. When he's in ring-center, he manages to become part of the show without infringing on it. But what makes him special is his tag line. We're ready, Mike, we're ready.



Buffer: Always ready to rumble



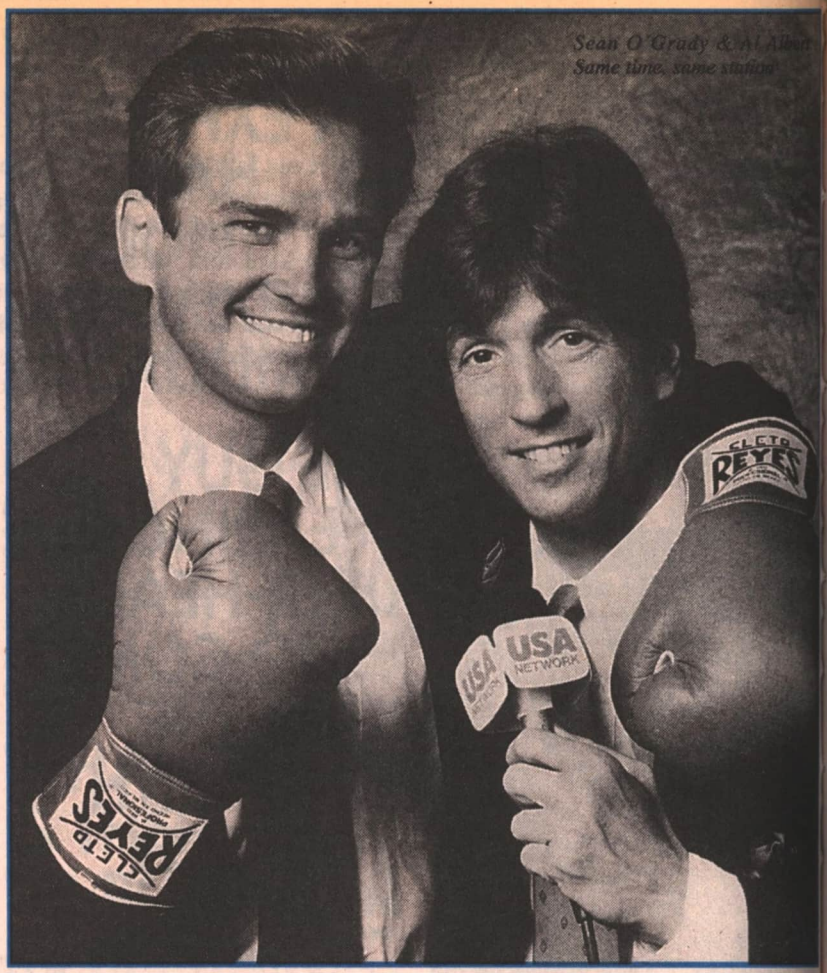
Yori Boy Campas and shaman friend

WHAT'S *GOOD* ABOUT BOXING

TUESDAY NIGHT FIGHTS

Sometimes the scraps are good, sometimes they're not, but TNF is the one and only constant for fight fans. At 9 p.m. on almost every Tuesday night, you can count on joining Al Albert and Sean O'Grady on the USA Network. We used to be able to say the same about Al Bernstein and ESPN, but that network has been juggling its boxing programming—and driving boxing fans crazy—for years.

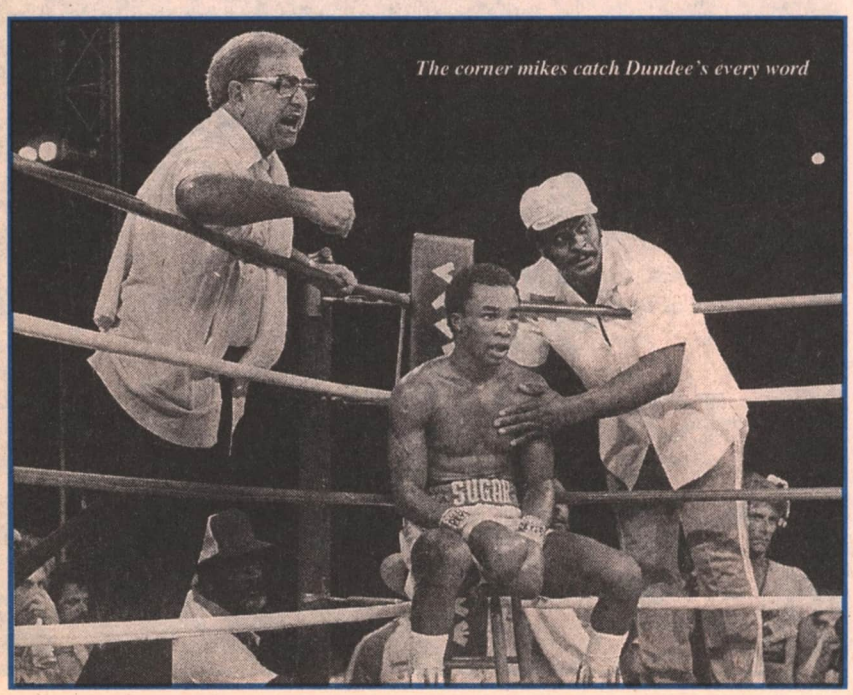
Now if Sean ever learns how to score a fight ...



Sean O'Grady & Al Albert: Same time, same station

CORNER MICROPHONES

There are no microphones in Troy Aikman's huddle or Bobby Cox's dugout. Phil Jackson isn't miked, and neither is Scotty Bowman. But as usual, boxing is different. When the TV announcers shut up and allow us to listen, corner mikes often provide high drama. From desperate cheerleading ("*You're* tired? The *other* guy is *really* tired!") to technical instruction ("Every time he jabs, you jab *twice*"), trainers always have something to say. When Angelo Dundee told Sugar Ray Leonard, "You're blowin' it, son!", he created a sound bite for the ages. And when Teddy Atlas drew every bit of fight out of Michael Moorer, who was struggling vs. Evander Holyfield, he reminded us how a fighter in furious combat is stripped to his essence.



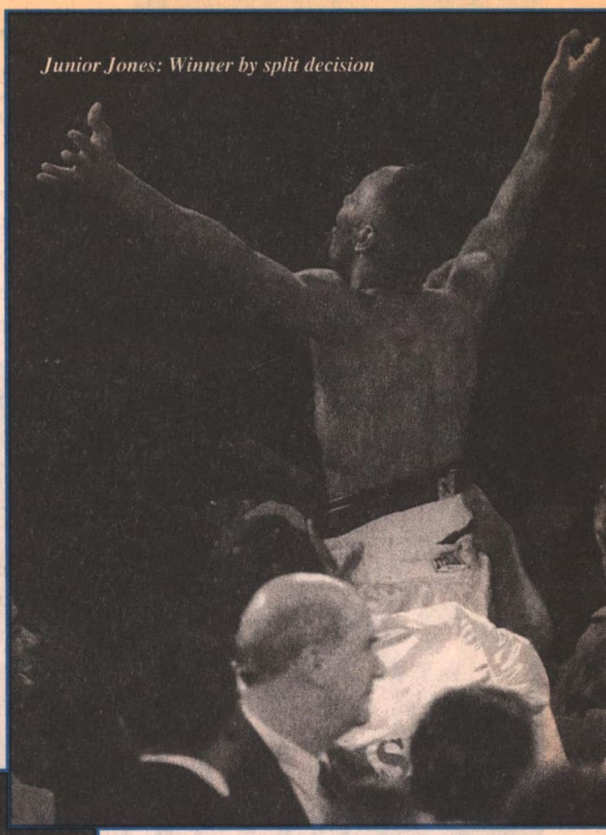
The corner mikes catch Dundee's every word

NASEEM HAMED

American fight fans have only recently been exposed to this unique performer, an English featherweight of Yemenite descent who is overflowing with charisma. If you haven't seen "The Prince," and if you think all British fighters are stiff and proper gentlemen with straight-up styles, you're in for a shock. And the best part of it is that Hamed can fight, too.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPLIT DECISIONS

A question for all those in favor of open scoring: What can match the drama created by the reading of the scores of a close fight? Nothing's worse than when the ring announcer botches it up, but nothing's better than hearing Michael Buffer or Jimmy Lennon Jr. tell us, "Ladies and gentlemen, we have a *split* decision. And the scoring as follows ... " The butterflies float until the payoff: " ... And the winner and *new* champion ... " or " ... And the winner and *still* champion ... " For heightened tension, nothing compares.



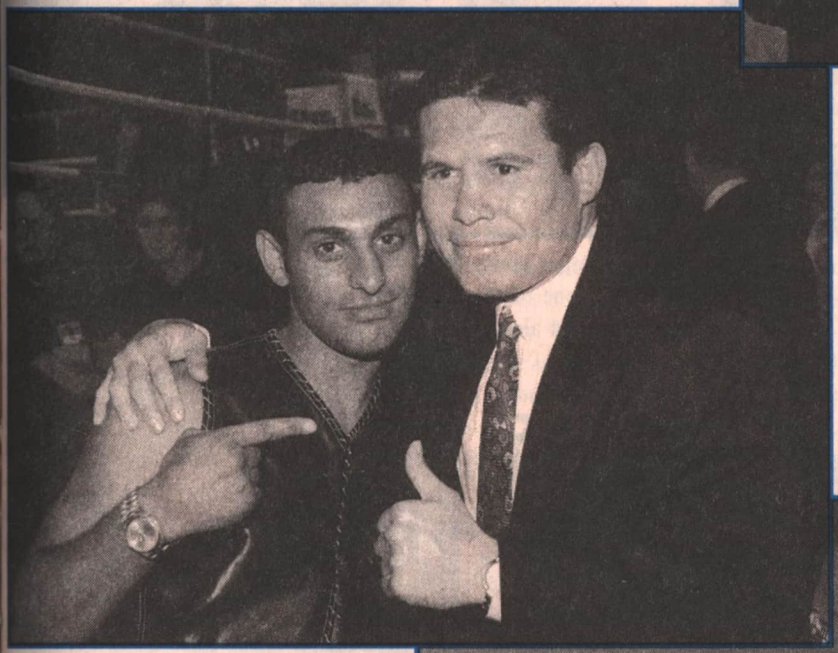
Junior Jones: Winner by split decision

CHRISTY MARTIN

We have no problem with women in the ring, and if we did, we're sure "The Coal-Miner's Daughter," whose left hook has redefined gender-bending, would straighten us out. It's no coincidence that the first female boxer to garner the national spotlight is feminine, married, and pretty in pink. None of that would matter, however, if Martin couldn't fight. She may or may not be the best of her sex, but there's no one more exciting.

Consider what Martin has accomplished in the last few months: She won the first women's match to be televised; she was featured on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*; she made the rounds of the nationally televised talk shows, including *Today*; with the help of tough Irishwoman Deirdre Gogarty, she stole a pay-per-view card that happened to feature Mike Tyson; and she's survived negotiating sessions with Don King.

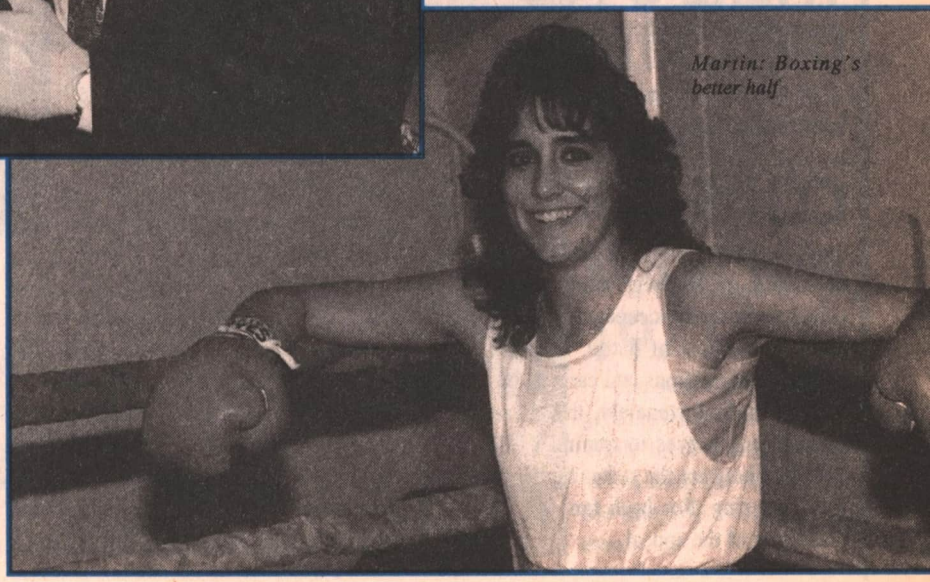
A woman's place is in the ring, too.



Hamed could become as big a star as Chavez

STAREDOWNS

We have two favorites. The first came in the ring, before Wilfred Benitez and Sugar Ray Leonard matched skills. Benitez won the staredown, but Leonard won the fight. The second is Mike Tyson vs. Evander Holyfield, which HBO tried to film immediately after a press conference announcing the ill-fated fight. There were several attempted staredowns, none of which lasted more than a second or two.

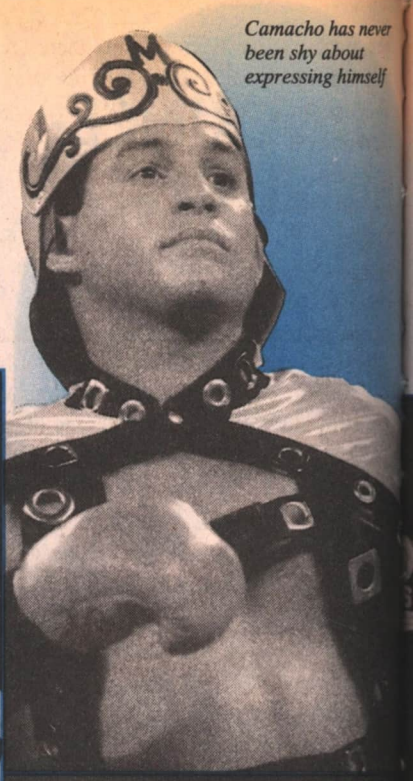


Martin: Boxing's better half

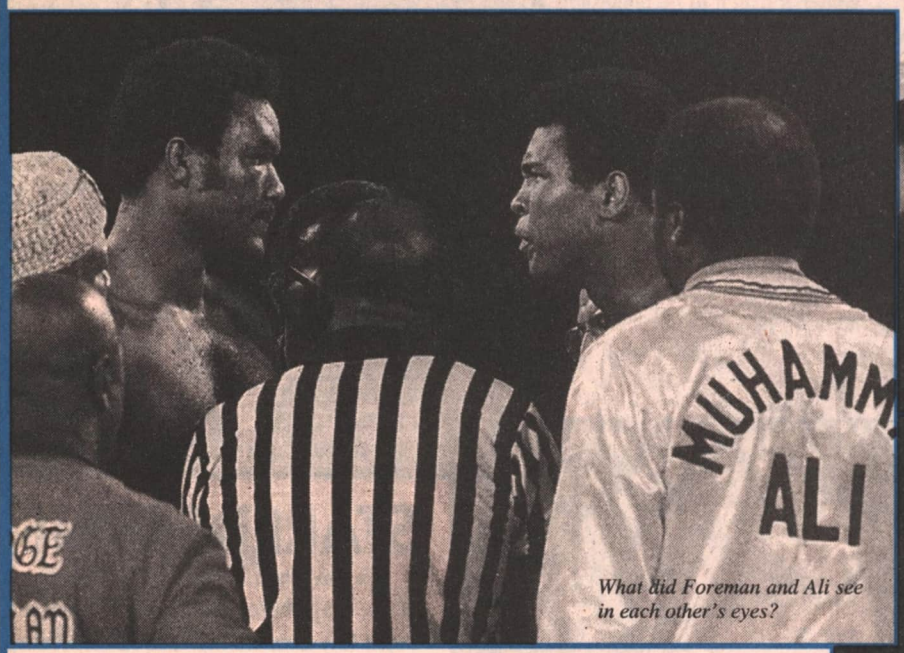
WHAT'S *GOOD* ABOUT BOXING

INDIVIDUAL EXPRESSION

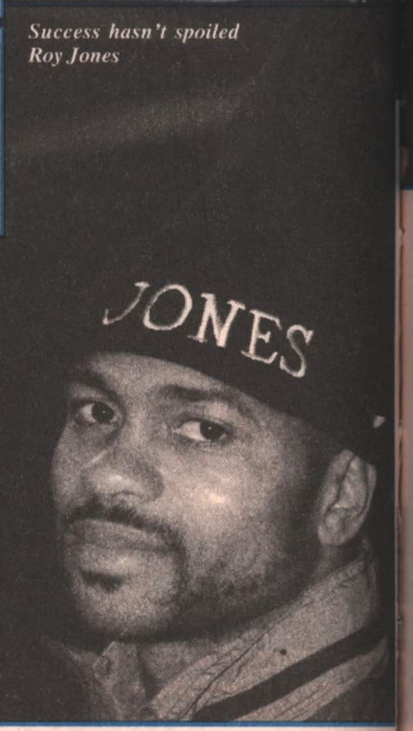
From trunks and robes and ring-walk music to stances and styles, no two fighters are the same. Inside the ring and out, individual expression is encouraged, hence the Jorge Paezes, Hector Camachos, and Vinny Pazienzas of the world. And



Camacho has never been shy about expressing himself



What did Foreman and Ali see in each other's eyes?



Success hasn't spoiled Roy Jones

That was because neither fighter could stop laughing. That, we suppose, says something about the significance of fighters locking eyes. But it's still fun to watch, especially before a big fight.

THERE'S NO DICK VITALE

Maybe we should put it this way: At least Ferdie Pacheco's not as loud.

COURAGE

And we don't mean Tshabalala. Given the nature of the sport, boxers are often called upon to dig deeper than other athletes. In the heat of battle, they risk not only their reputations and careers, but also their lives. Unfortunately, the occasional ring tragedy serves to remind us of that fact. Nowhere are the stakes higher than in a boxing ring. For both fan and fighter, that's part of the appeal.

consider that from a technical standpoint, Muhammad Ali, one of the greatest fighters ever, did almost nothing right.

BOXERS AS PEOPLE

The word from Pensacola, Florida, is that success has changed Emmitt Smith, but not Roy Jones. That's hardly a surprise. Perhaps because of their roots, and the fact that they're rarely pampered, boxers are generally accessible, fan-friendly, honest, and down-to-earth. In case you haven't noticed, the same cannot be said of professional baseball, football, and basketball players. Bring your autograph book to Induction Weekend at the International Boxing Hall of Fame and the former and active world champions won't charge you for their signatures. In fact, they'll even sign with a smile and a nice word. 'Nuff said.

POUND-FOR-POUND DEBATES

This is a relatively new phenomenon. There used to be a time when a world champion was acknowledged to be the

best fighter at his weight. Now there are half-a-dozen world champions per division, and the ratings of the alphabet organizations are a bad joke. As a result, fans have turned their attention to the mythical pound-for-pound title. THE RING even presents its choice—as of now, it's Roy Jones—with a championship belt befitting his status. Hey, anything that allows a comparison of Ricardo Lopez to Mike Tyson is fun for everybody.

Pernell: Presented the pound-for-pound belt by Steve Farhood

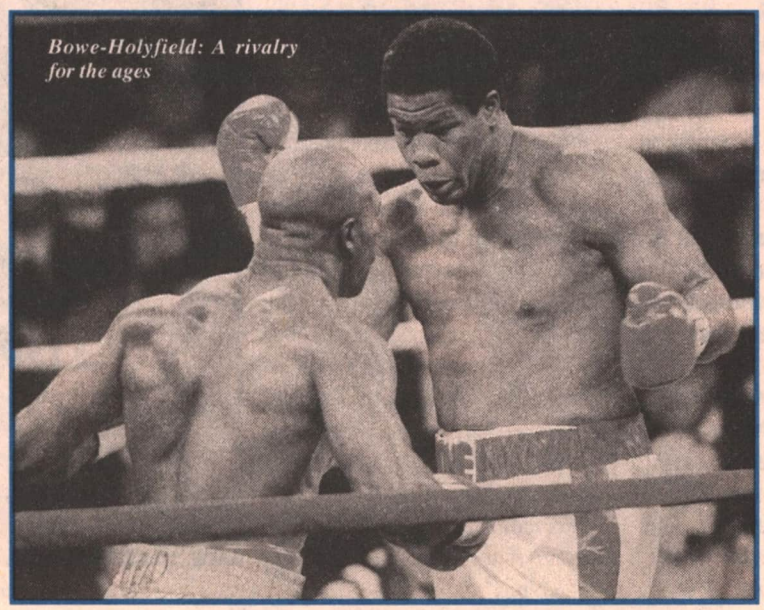
CLASSIC SERIES

As good as each of the three Bowe-Holyfield fights were, none was as great as the whole. That's what makes for a classic rivalry. The contrasting styles and personalities of certain adversaries allow them to match up particularly well. Such was the case with, among others, Pep-Saddler, Zale-Graziano, Ali-Frazier, and La-Motta-Robinson. One name seems incomplete without the other. In this regard, the one-on-one nature of boxing is a major plus.

There aren't as many rivalries as there used to be, but the Bowe-Holyfield series reminded us of how compelling they can be.

EVEN BAD FIGHTERS CAN MAKE FOR GREAT FIGHTS

In the Winter 1995 edition of THE RING, we asked boxing insiders whether they'd rather watch Pernell Whitaker masterfully outbox, but never hurt, a world-class opponent for 12 rounds or two clubfighters trade haymakers in an exciting but crude brawl that ends inside the distance. The results: 50 percent answered Whitaker, and 50 percent answered the clubfighters. It's not just the insiders; while most fans appreciate ring artistry, they also feel no need to apologize for craving a toe-to-toe slugfest. And that's sometimes provided by two novices who can't get out of each other's way, which is why God invented four-rounders.



Bowe-Holyfield: A rivalry for the ages

IT'S NEVER OVER 'TIL IT'S OVER

As HBO's Larry Merchant points out, in baseball, you can't hit a five-run homer. But in boxing, you can lose 11 rounds and score a knockout in the 12th. All it takes is one punch. Just ask Meldrick Taylor.

THE ANTICIPATION BEFORE A BIG FIGHT

We're talking a *really* big fight, the type that occurs only once every couple of years. The world seems to stop, and *everyone* becomes a boxing fan. At office water coolers, on streetcorners, in cafeterias, all the talk is boxing. Think about it: People are more likely to remember where they were for the first Ali-Frazier fight than for Super Bowl XIV.

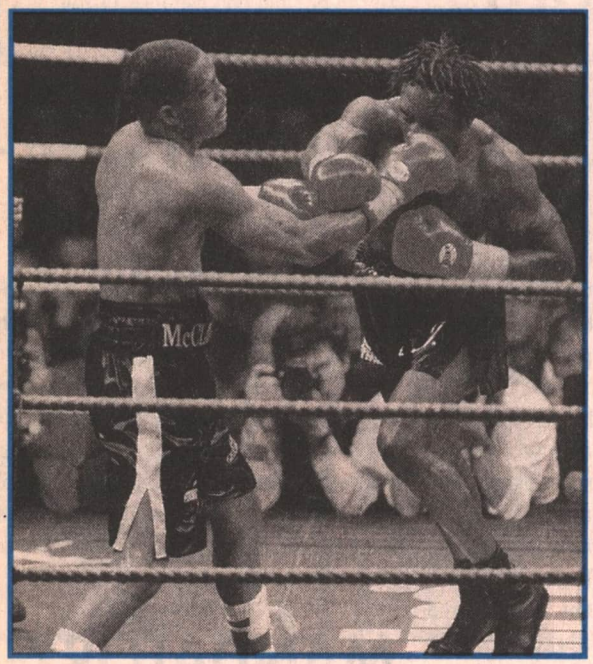
MANDATORY CHALLENGERS

If the number-one contender would have been guaranteed a shot in the old days, Archie Moore and Zora Folley wouldn't have had to wait years and years for their opportunities, and Charley Burley and Harry Wills wouldn't have been denied title shots altogether. Now if the alphabet boys only rank the right fighters first ...

MARCH 8, 1971

The world stopped for the greatest fight of all-time. While there will never again be anything like Ali-Frazier I, the memories will last forever.

WHAT'S *BAD* ABOUT BOXING



In boxing, head injuries are inevitable

THE INEVITABILITY OF BRAIN INJURIES

Boxing is an exceedingly dangerous activity, and an alarming number of fighters suffer some degree of neurological damage. Although a relatively small percentage of boxers are killed in the ring, *pugilistica dementia* (punch-drunk syndrome) is far more prevalent than most fans want to believe.

Frequently, the onset of this disabling affliction comes years after a fighter retires. Therefore, even those who seem to be in perfect health when they hang up their gloves often become severely handicapped somewhere down the line.

Headgear is not the answer. It's great for preventing cuts caused by head butts, but does nothing to protect the brain. The brain is cushioned within the skull by a liquid known as cerebrospinal fluid, and when jarred by a punch, the brain bangs into the skull. Headgear does not prevent this.

Meticulous matchmaking, strict prefight physicals, and neurological screening can reduce the number of brain injuries. But as long as men are punching each other in the head, such injuries will be part of boxing.

SPLIT TITLES

Quick: How many of you know who the WBA junior lightweight champion is without peeking at page 15? How about the WBC middleweight champion or the IBF bantamweight champion? Tough, isn't it? But don't feel too bad. You're not alone in your confusion. Right now, boxing has so many split titles that figuring out who's wearing what belt is only slightly less difficult than advanced trigonometry.

Not only has the radical increase of split titles drastically cheapened the concept of a "world" champion, it has led to the disenfranchisement of many former and would-be fans. Old-timers who recall when there were only eight world champions are disgusted by the current situation, while newcomers quickly become frustrated by their inability to decipher the chaotic situation.

Things have gotten so bad, a recent prefight segment on HBO was entitled, "Who Are These Guys?" And they weren't talking about flyweights from Thailand. The piece concerned the anonymous nature of the current *heavyweight* champions!

LACK OF MAINSTREAM MEDIA COVERAGE

You can count the number of daily newspapers that have a full-time boxing writer on the fingers of a thumbless boxing glove. Even reporters who cover the sport on a fairly regular basis (and there are precious few of them) are usually required to also work other beats. But that's not the worst part. Many papers have little or no boxing coverage for months on end. But when there's a ring fatality or a scandal involving a boxer, they're suddenly all over it.

Radio and television networks do an even worse job. Despite the proliferation of sports-talk radio, the amount of air time given to boxing is negligible. And while there are a few exceptions, the vast majority of the on-air talent flaunt their ignorance every time they open their mouths. Television? Forget it. Besides ESPN's *SportsCenter*, boxing news on TV is virtually nonexistent.

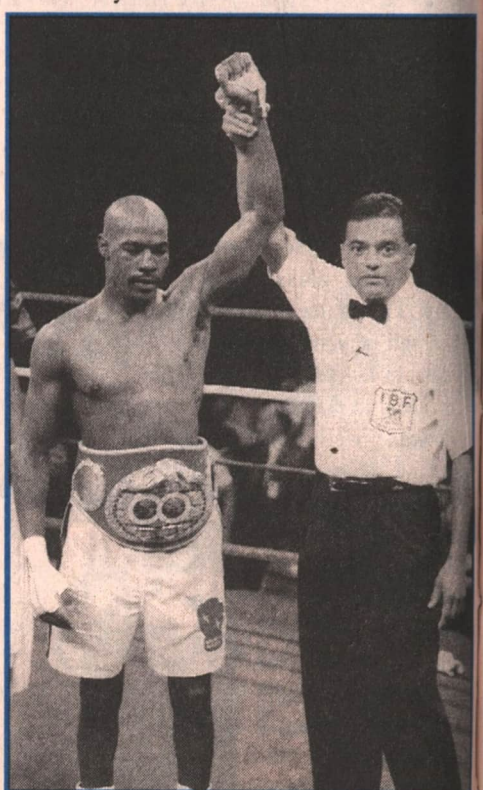


Photo by Joy Losh

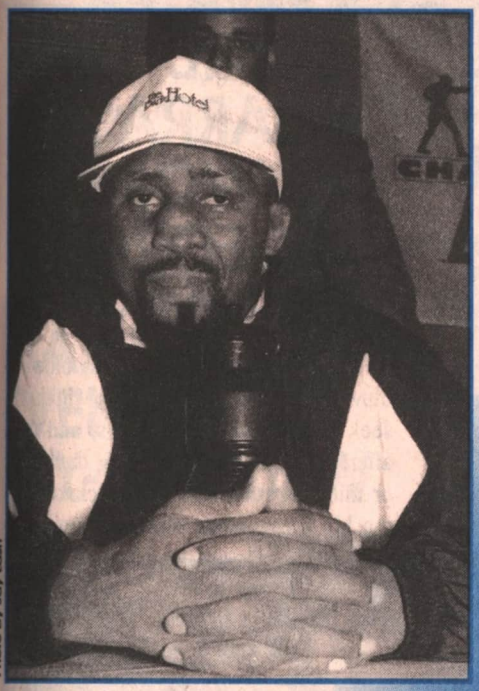
Tom Johnson holds one-third of the featherweight title

NBC

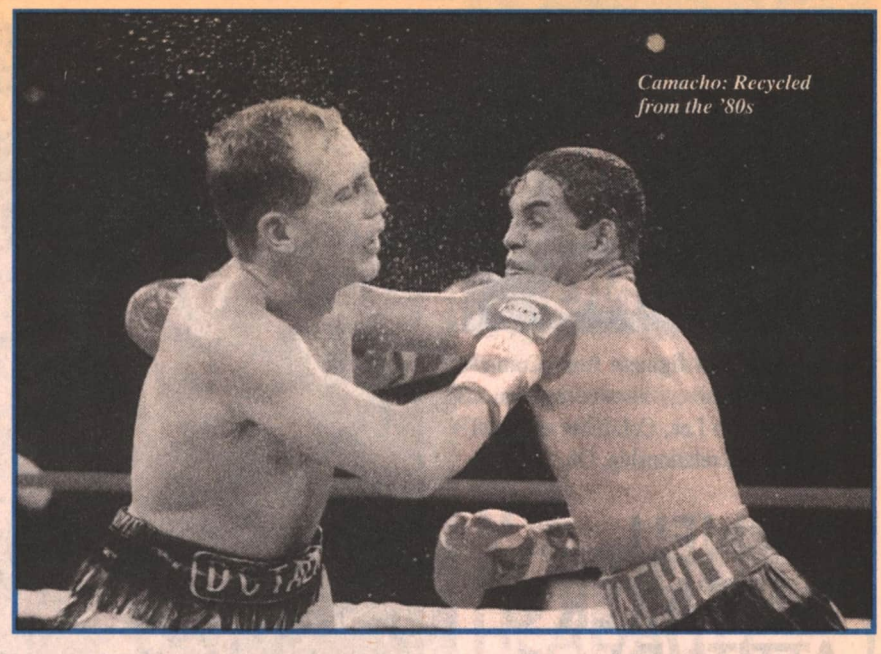
The *only* major network without any boxing.

THOMAS HEARNS

Who loves "The Hit Man"? We love him. But that doesn't mean we want to see him fight anymore. Tommy, you've had a fabulous career. You've won world titles in four weight divisions and earned a permanent place in the hearts of boxing fans with your epic, give-and-take battles. But enough is enough. You'll be 38 in October, and according to all reports, you're a wealthy man. Get out now, before it's too late. Because right now, you're another Muhammad Ali waiting to happen.



Hearns: Isn't it time to say goodbye?



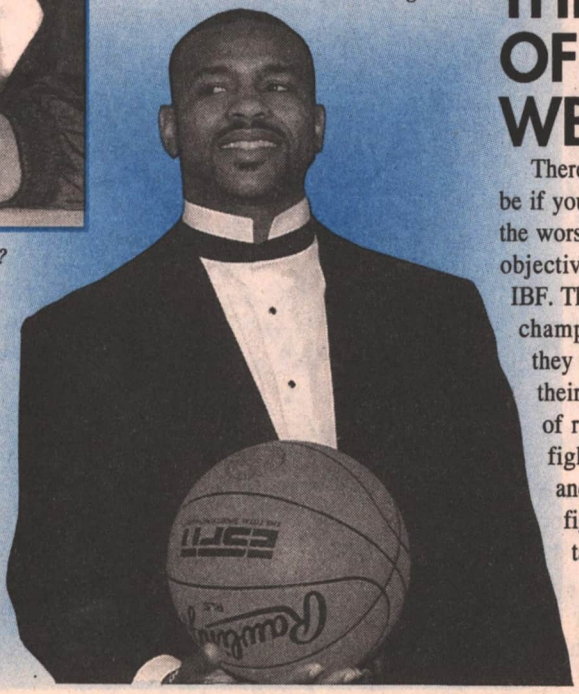
Camacho: Recycled from the '80s

ROY JONES' BASKETBALL CAREER

We've become bored by Jones' boredom with boxing. As we went to press, he was planning to play in a league basketball game the afternoon of his IBF super middleweight title defense against Eric Lucas. That's not only an insult to Lucas, but to boxing, too. Moreover, if Lucas is so easy that Jones can get away with playing hoops the day of the bout, he shouldn't be fighting him in the first place.

Jones has continually threatened to quit boxing, or at least suspend his career, for basketball. What he should realize is that on the hardwood, players of his ability come cheap. Unless he's willing to settle for $300 a game.

Jones: Boxing and boxing out



OVER-THE-HILL FORMER CHAMPS WHO WON'T GO AWAY

Or maybe we should blame the TV networks that keep bringing them back. That means you, USA Network.

THE RATINGS OF THE WBA, WBC, & IBF

There's a saying that the worst place to be if you're sick is the hospital. Similarly, the worst place to look for a set of sound, objective ratings is the WBA, WBC, or IBF. These alphabet groups don't rate the champions of the rival organizations; they don't rate fighters who announce their intentions of trying for the titles of rival organizations; they don't rate fighters who have pissed them off; and in some cases, they don't rate the fighters who are contracted to certain promoters.

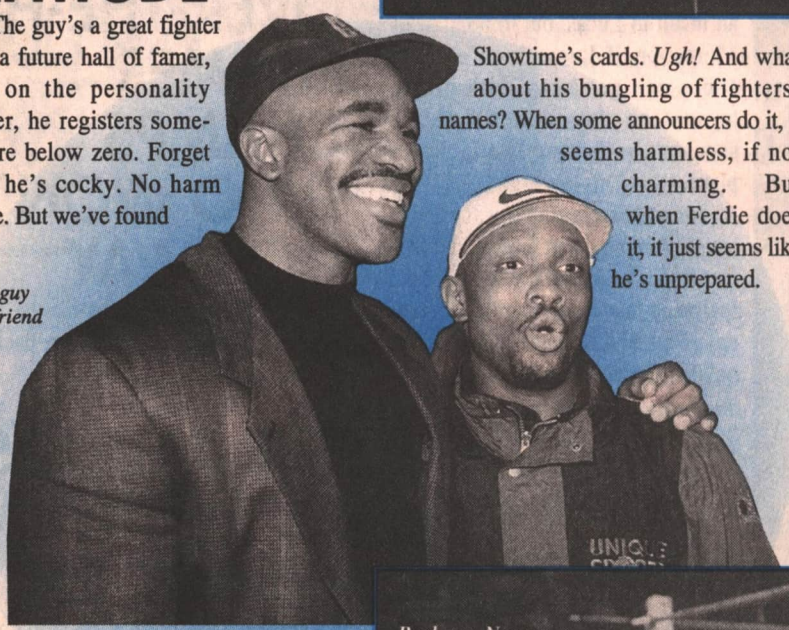
But the worst part is the fighters they do rate! For instance, in recent years, the IBF has been

WHAT'S *BAD* ABOUT BOXING

infatuated with fighters from Colombia. Why? Because, according to IBF President Bob Lee, Colombia and the IBF enjoy a good relationship. Oh.

PERNELL WHITAKER'S ATTITUDE

The guy's a great fighter and a future hall of famer, but on the personality meter, he registers somewhere below zero. Forget that he's cocky. No harm there. But we've found him to be rude and inconsiderate. Let's face it: Boxing doesn't have many stars. How many like Whitaker can we afford?



Nice guy and friend

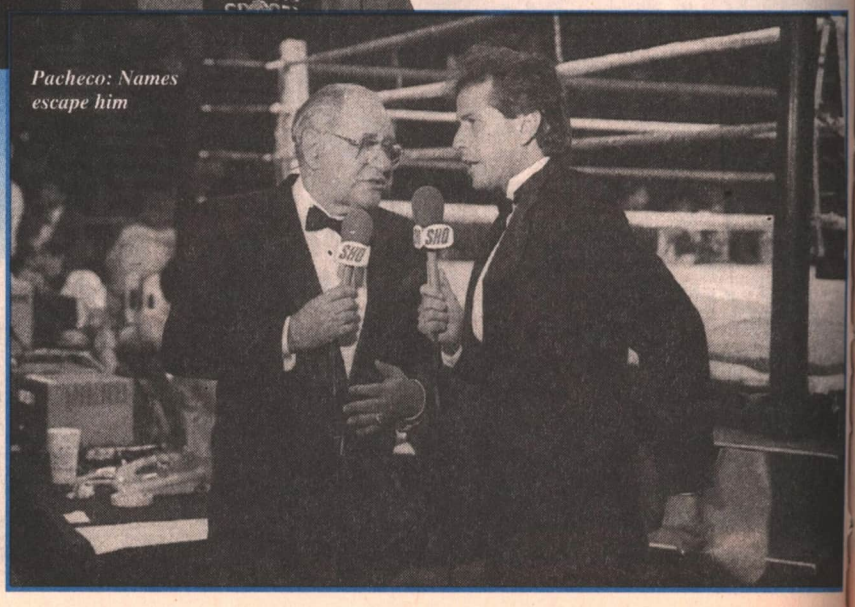
THE DECLINE OF FERDIE PACHECO ...

Hundreds of prescriptions ago, "The Fight Doctor," during his run at NBC, served as boxing's conscience. Now he shills by conducting those puffy, lengthy interviews with Don King at the end of Showtime's cards. *Ugh!* And what about his bungling of fighters' names? When some announcers do it, it seems harmless, if not charming. But when Ferdie does it, it just seems like he's unprepared.

Big George? What is he gonna say next?

... AND THE EMBARRASSING WORK OF GEORGE FOREMAN

Equal time for HBO. We pity blow-by-blow announcer Jim Lampley, who has to seek Big George's opinions, and then, after Foreman says something outrageous or idiotic, patronize him by acknowledging his nonsense as serious commentary.

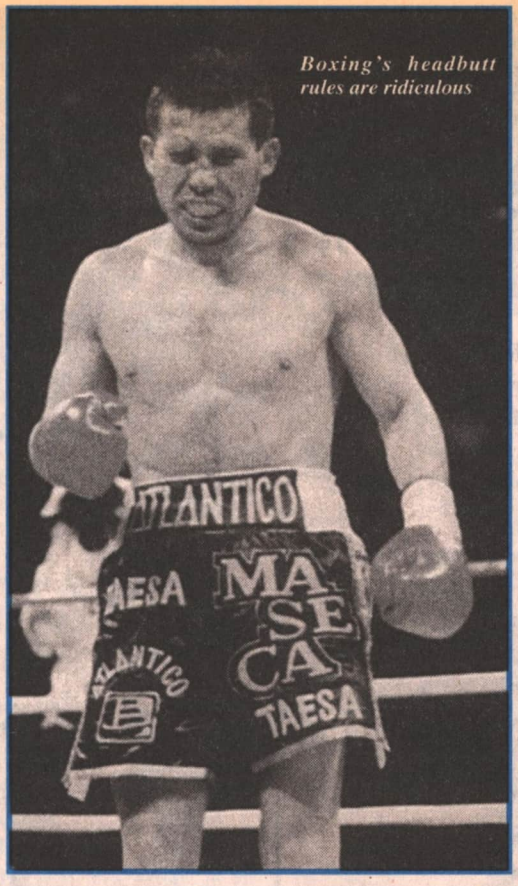


Pacheco: Names escape him

Bring back Roy Jones. Bring back Gil Clancy. Bring back Sugar Ray Leonard! On second thought, maybe that last idea isn't such a good one.

THE IBO, IBC, WBF, ETC.

For all their faults, at least the established alphabet organizations have done something for boxing (the WBC's extensive work on ring safety; the IBF's creation of a pension plan for boxers). But what purpose do the fringe sanctioning groups provide? Thanks to the proliferation of these bodies, the title *world champion* has come to have the value of Monopoly money at a Las Vegas blackjack table. Perhaps the lowest moment came last December, when Bobby Czyz won something called the WBU super cruiserweight title. A super cruiserweight is bigger than a junior heavyweight, which is really a cruiserweight. Got that? If you do, it's time to get a life.



Boxing's headbutt rules are ridiculous

MISMATCHED MAIN EVENTS ON PAY-PER-VIEW

It's bad enough that boxing fans have to pay for the biggest bouts, while the best baseball, football, basketball, and hockey games remain available on free TV. Pay-per-view is a reality that we've come to accept. But it's a low blow when we have to pay for USA Network or ESPN quality fights. For instance, did anyone think Marco Antonio Barrera-Jesse Benavides was going to be competitive? All we're asking for is a little bit of quality control here.

THE PASSING OF RING LINEUPS

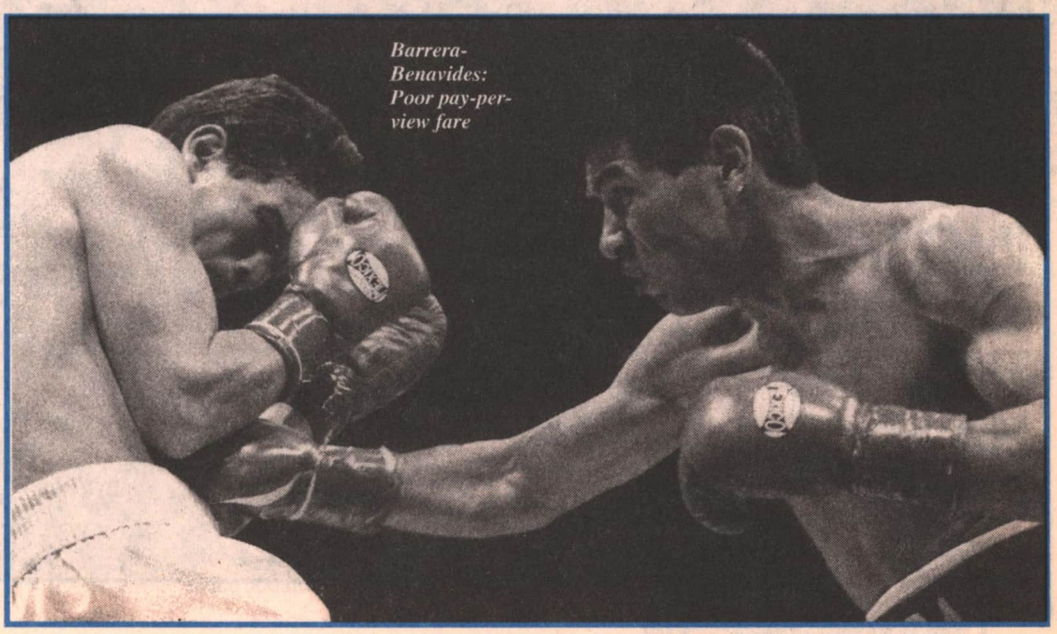
We understand why ring lineups have all but disappeared, but we don't have to like it. Presumably, the casual fan would rather *hear* Michael Buffer introduce Christian Slater or Demi Moore than *see* Alexis Arguello or Emile Griffith in the ring. Too bad, because one of boxing's neatest traditions is dying. At the big bouts, current and former world champions, as well as top contenders, used to be introduced, climb through the ropes, and then remain in the ring while the rest of the fighters were called up. The way it's done today, the celebrities who are announced remain faceless—if they're in the arena at all.

THE ACCIDENTAL HEADBUTT RULE

There are a million different rules—and we don't like any of them.

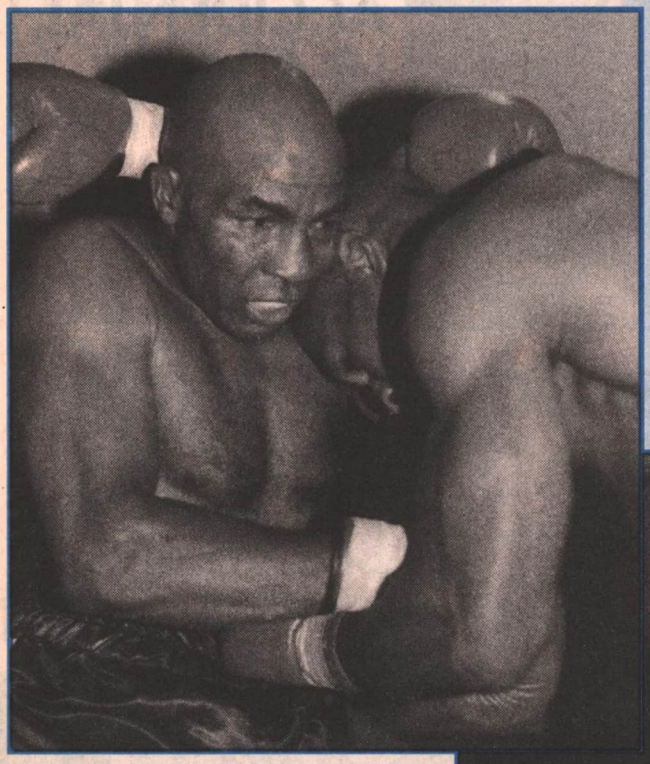
BOXING IN STATES THAT HAVE NO COMMISSIONS ...

There are only four or five such states remaining, and if Sen. McCain's bill is


Barrera-Benavides: Poor pay-per-view fare

WHAT'S *BAD* ABOUT BOXING

passed by the Senate, it will be illegal for promoters to run shows without a commission's participation. Given the ripoffs and ridiculous matches that have taken place in states like Oklahoma and Colorado, that's a good thing.



Wisconsin said okay to Shavers

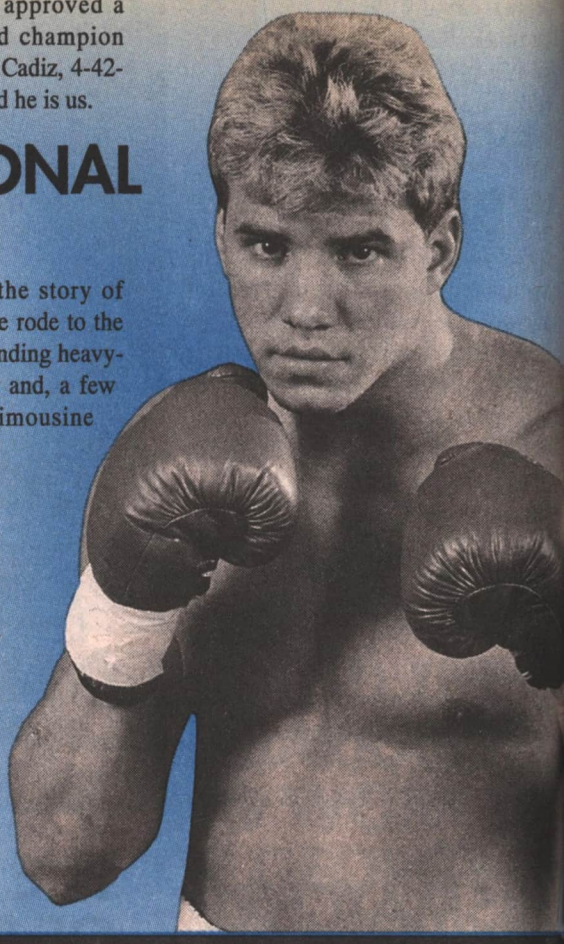
... AND BOXING IN SOME OF THE STATES THAT *DO* HAVE COMMISSIONS

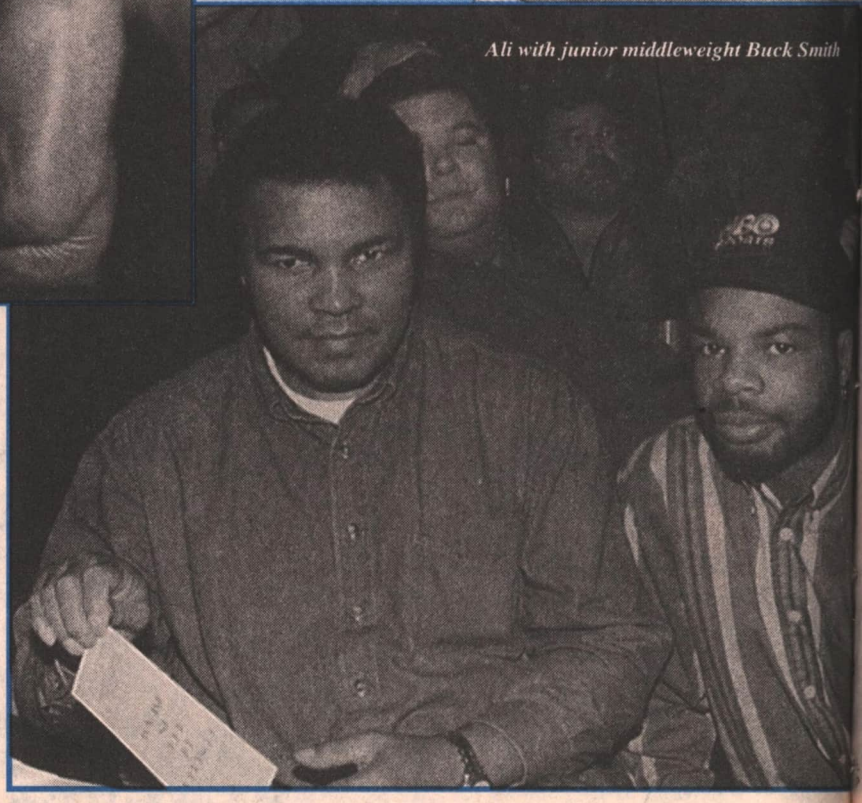
Ron Lyle, 53, was licensed to fight in Kentucky. Earnie Shavers, 50, and with a history of eye problems, was okayed in Wisconsin. Massachusetts approved a bout between former world champion Aaron Davis, 42-4, and Greg Cadiz, 4-42-2. We have met the enemy and he is us.

PROMOTIONAL OPTIONS

Don King loves to tell the story of how, in Kingston, Jamaica, he rode to the fight in a limousine with defending heavyweight champion Joe Frazier and, a few hours later, returned in a limousine

There's no denying Tommy Morrison is white



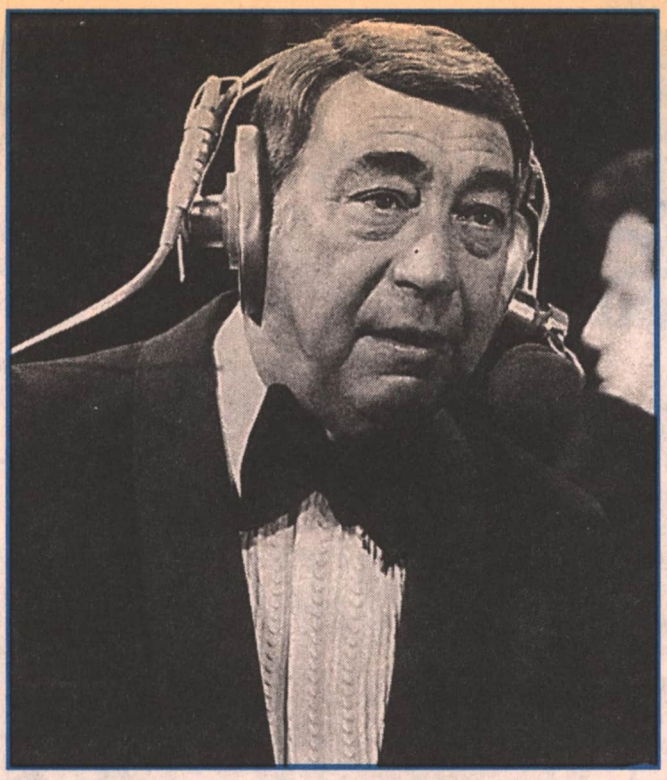


Ali with junior middleweight Buck Smith

with newly crowned heavyweight champion George Foreman. This is how the game is played: You want a shot at a champion promoted by King or any other power promoter? You got it—as long as you agree that if you win, you forfeit promotional rights for your first defense or two (or three or four). Call it a legal form of extortion.

GREAT WHITE HOPES

An inevitable part of the game? Perhaps. But this isn't 1912 anymore, and idealists that we are, we'd like to think that we've advanced to a point where managers and promoters are above appealing to the cheapest instincts of the lowest common denominator.



Cosell: You don't know what you got 'til it's gone

THE CONDITION OF MUHAMMAD ALI

Ali remains a symbol, and given the magic of the man, imagine what he could accomplish as goodwill ambassador for the Sweet Science. Instead, "The Greatest's" physical condition serves as a painful reminder of the perils of boxing. Why did it have to turn out this way?

THERE'S NO HOWARD COSELL

We're not sure whether this belongs on the good list or the bad list. That aside, it would be nice if there was a high-profile announcer who, like Cosell, was instantly associated with boxing. We'll tell you this: A little bit more Alex Wallau wouldn't hurt.

UNQUALIFIED REFEREES AND JUDGES

The scariest thing is that some of them work in the busiest of boxing states. There's no merit system here, with many of the assignments political in nature. We were particularly amused by the recent performance of referee Ernie Sharif, who deducted three points from lightweight Sammy Mejias *in one round!* And how about judge Joe A. Ware, who scored the Charles Murray-Tony Lopez fight for Murray 120-106, while the other judges had him in front by a realistic four and five points.

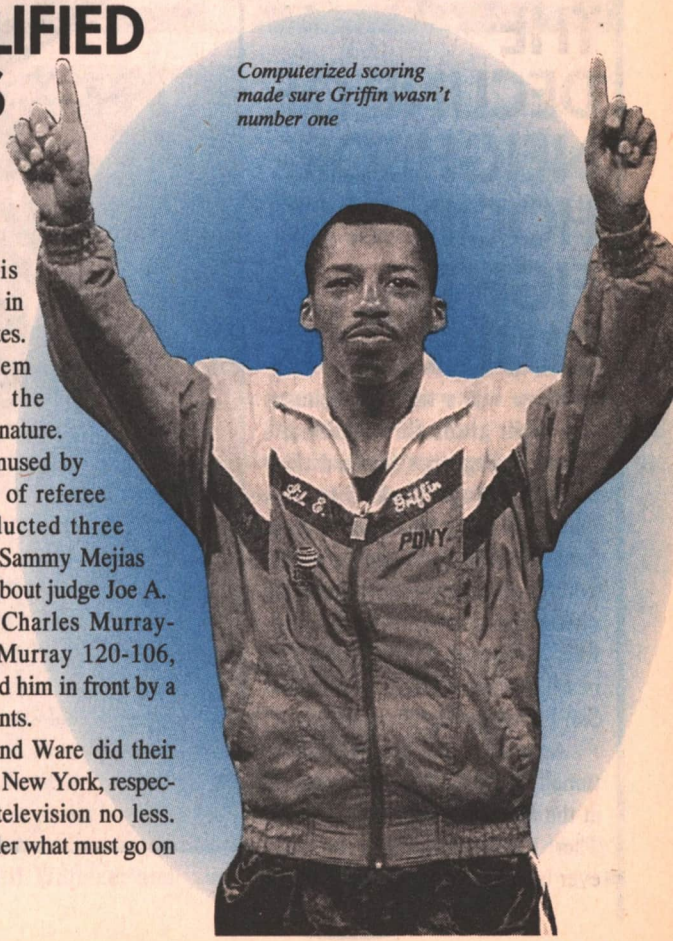
By the way, Sharif and Ware did their work in Pennsylvania and New York, respectively, and on national television no less. Makes you stop and wonder what must go on in the boonies.

THE LIVE-FOR-TODAY MENTALITY

Does anyone care about the *future* of boxing? No one promotes the sport because the focus is on making money now. Of course, it's always been that way, and until boxing has a central body that concerns itself with the welfare of the sport, nothing's gonna change. The question we should all be asking: Where are the fans of tomorrow going to come from?

AMATEUR SCORING

We preferred the old days, when you could blame a bad decision on blatant and unabashed nationalism. Today, the scoring system works thusly:



Computerized scoring made sure Griffin wasn't number one

WHAT'S *BAD* ABOUT BOXING

Three of the five judges have to acknowledge a scoring blow on a computer within one second of each other. If they don't, the punch might as well never have happened. This would be funny if it weren't so asinine. Our favorite example came at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. Boxing in his second match at 106 pounds, gold medal favorite Eric Griffin outscored Spain's Rafael Lozano on all five cards, by scores of 8-5, 26-17, 19-10, 18-9, and 10-9. But because the judges weren't coordinated in registering most of his punches, he lost by an official count of 6-5.

THE DECLINE OF NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHT CLUBS

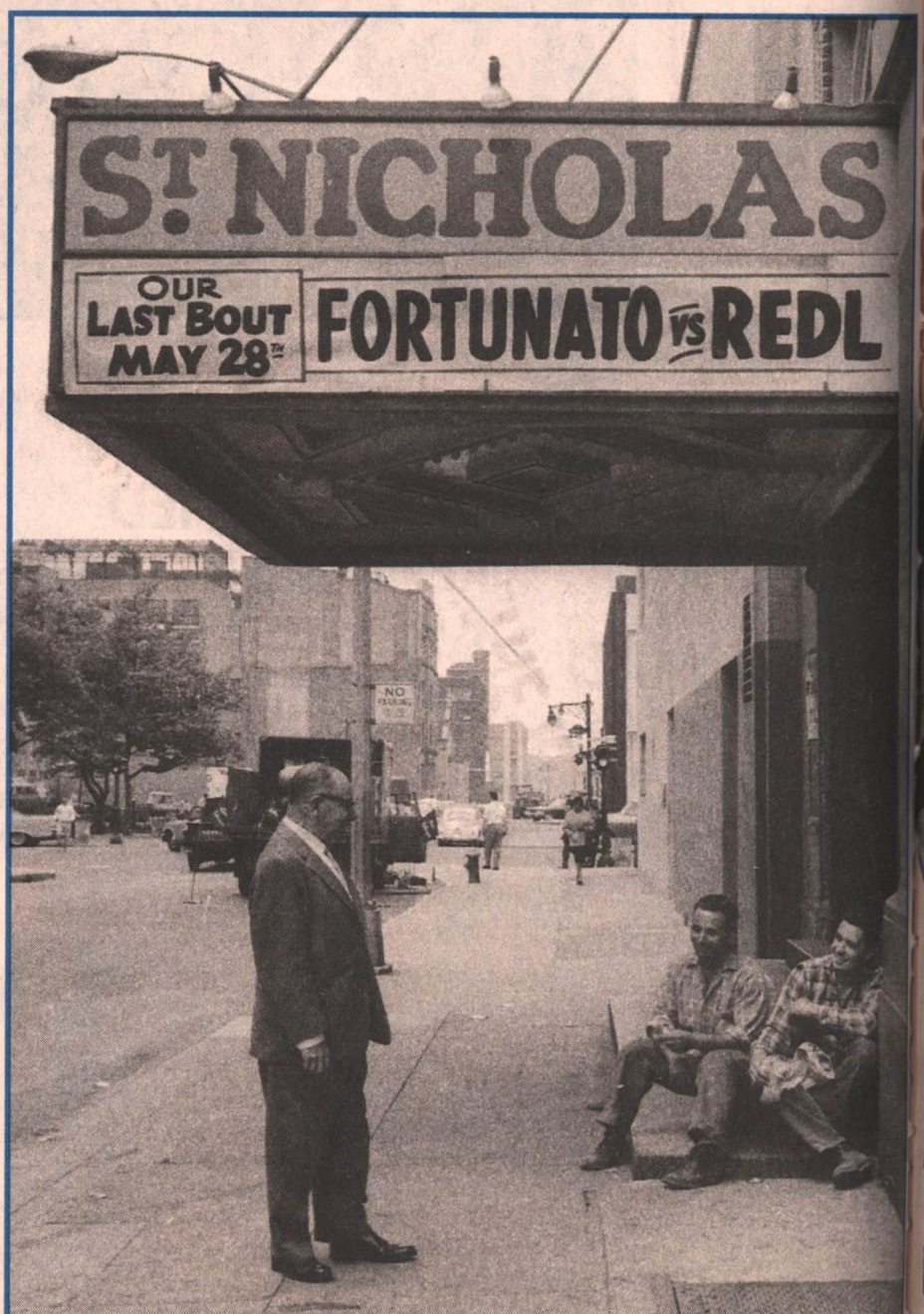
There was a time when inner-city fight clubs thrived. That's where young pros learned their craft. In New York City, for instance, there were once fight cards five or six nights a week. Today, there are major American cities that are virtually boxing-free. When was the last time you heard about a show in Atlanta? Or San Francisco? Or Pittsburgh?

As boxing has grown internationally, it has all but disappeared at the fight club level in the USA. There are fewer licensed pros than ever before, and one of the reasons is supply and demand. Sadly, there's not enough work to go around.

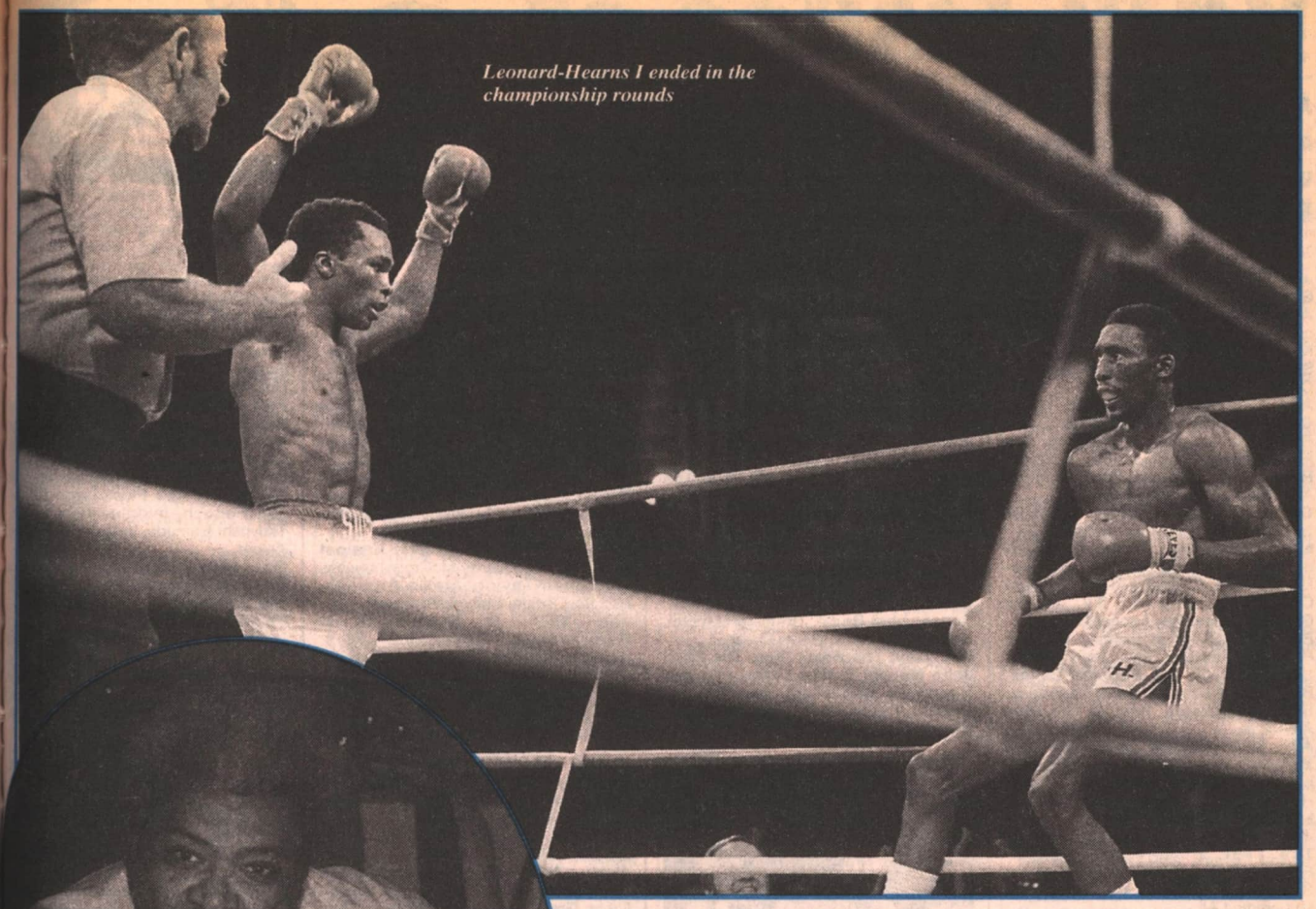
HIGH TICKET PRICES

The *average* ticket price for the Tyson-McNeeley fight was $1,000. Okay, so that was a Las Vegas superfight attended by a lot of celebrities and high-rollers. Still, it's an example of the fact that when promoters offer something special, Joe Q. Public is shut out. It's not all that different in non-casino settings either. The working stiff can afford a seat, but only if he's willing to risk a nosebleed.

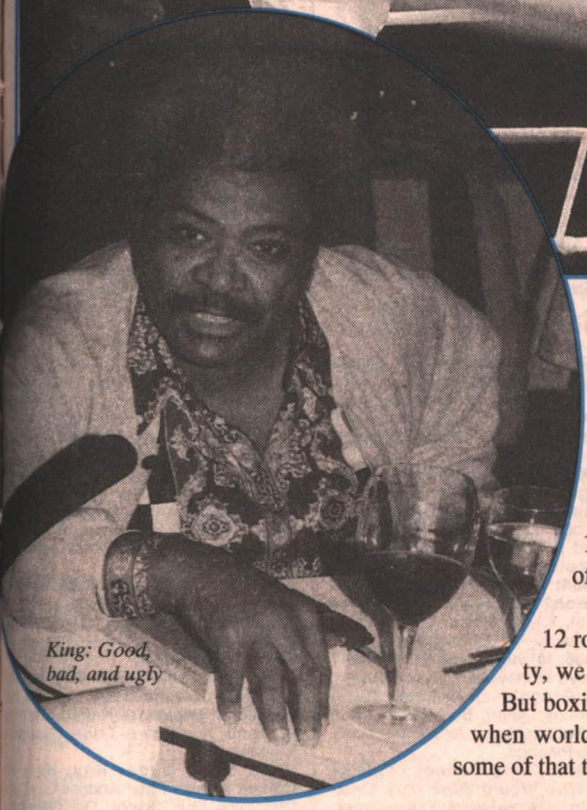
In fairness, we shouldn't single out boxing. Tickets for baseball, football, basketball, and hockey games are exorbitant as well. If you plan on taking the family to a ballgame, complete with parking, hot dogs, sodas, beers, and a souvenir or two, you'd better be earning the salary of a CEO.



St. Nick's: One less fight club



Leonard-Hearns I ended in the championship rounds



King: Good, bad, and ugly

NO MORE 15-ROUND FIGHTS

Ever notice that is was almost always the really good fighters, and the cool, hard-ened champions, that managed to rally in the 13th, 14th, and 15th rounds? The classic championship distance separated world title fights from the other bouts. Now, it seems every fight is 12 rounds, and for some kind of title.

If the reduction from 15 to 12 rounds has improved ring safety, we'll argue the point no further. But boxing is steeped in tradition, and when world title fights were shortened, some of that tradition was forever lost.

IMMEDIATE REMATCHES

Used judiciously, this wouldn't be such a bad idea. But all too often, an alphabet body's decision to order an immediate rematch seems arbitrary. An example is the WBC mandating a return between welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker and Wilfredo Rivera. Whitaker won a close decision the first time around, but it wasn't a particularly controversial verdict, nor was it a particularly exciting fight. So why do they have to do it again? At least they can't make us watch.

DON KING

Of course, there's some good, too; no other promoter has provided us with as many big matches. But King's well-documented abuse of fighters and his unsavory image are overwhelming negatives. He says he simply plays the game by the rules others have written. Maybe that's why the game is in the shape it's in.

THERE'S NO COMP FOR ROY JONES

Unless, of course, he fights heavyweights. ■

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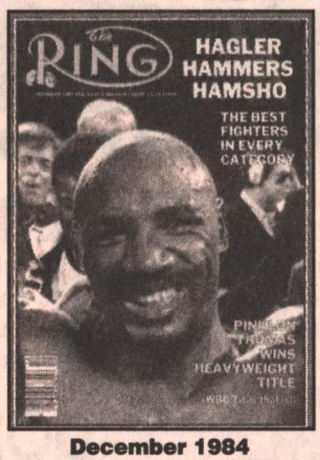

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THE REMARKABLE CAREER(S) OF CHARLIE POWELL

By Pete Ehrmann

Back in the '70s, when pro football teams were experimenting with European soccer players as field goal kickers, gridiron star-turned-actor Alex Karras had a talk-show routine about all those little Slovenians running around trying to "keek a touchdown!"

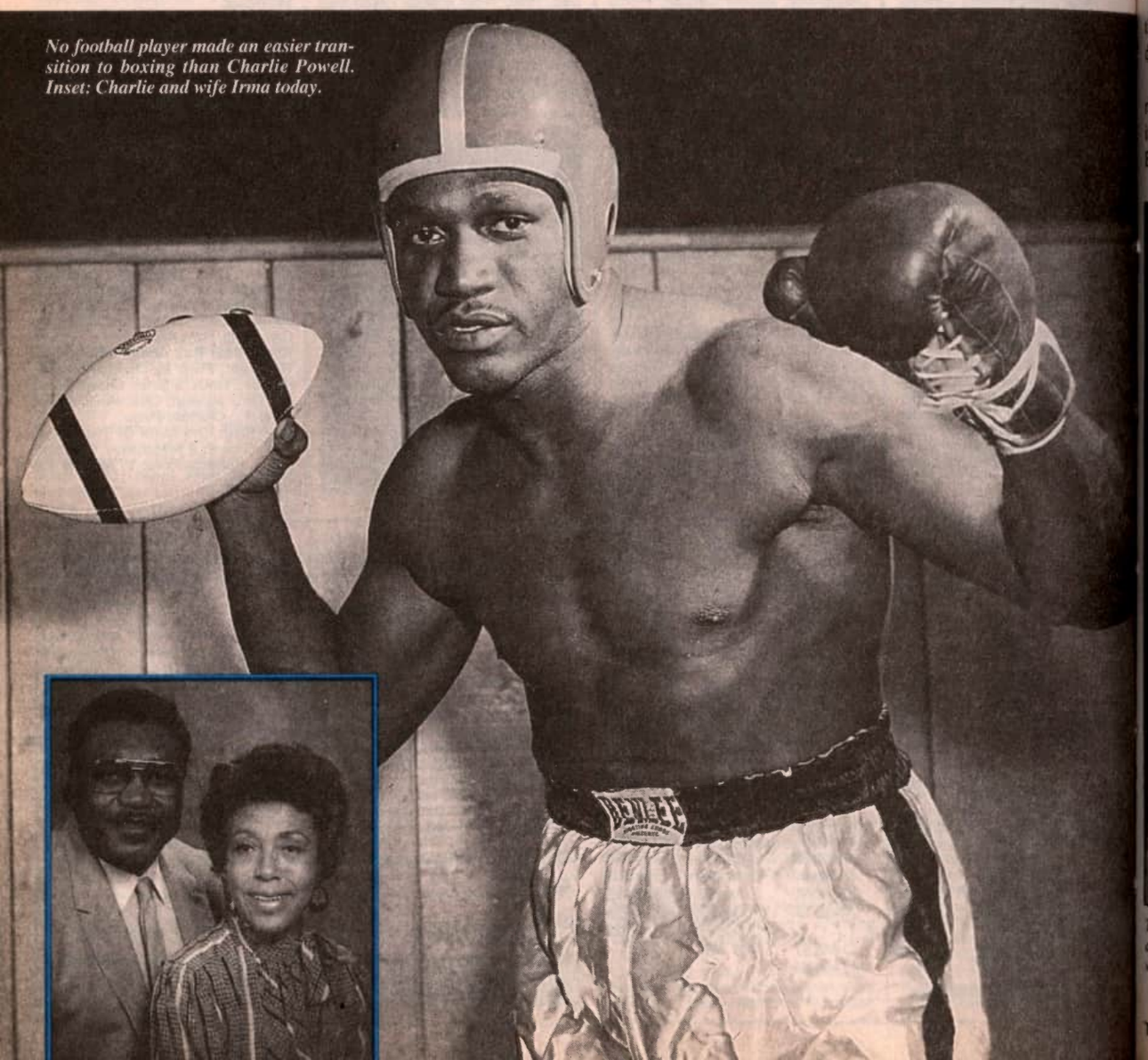
But when it comes to fish-out-of-water athletes, few have floundered as pathetically as the pro football players who have tried to translate their success on the hashmarks into careers in the pro boxing ring. The list has lately included the appalling Mark Gastineau of the New York Jets, as well as the earnest but uninspiring Ed "Too Tall" Jones of the Dallas Cowboys. Now another former Cowboy, Alonzo Highsmith, has joined the ranks, but so far with only middling success.

The problem, suggests Charlie Powell, is that when they were kids, none of them wanted boxing gloves from Santa Claus.

"You got to start at a younger age," says Powell, the former San Francisco 49er who was probably the football star who made the most successful switch to boxing. That came four decades ago, when he came within a fight or two of being matched against Rocky Marciano for the world heavyweight title.

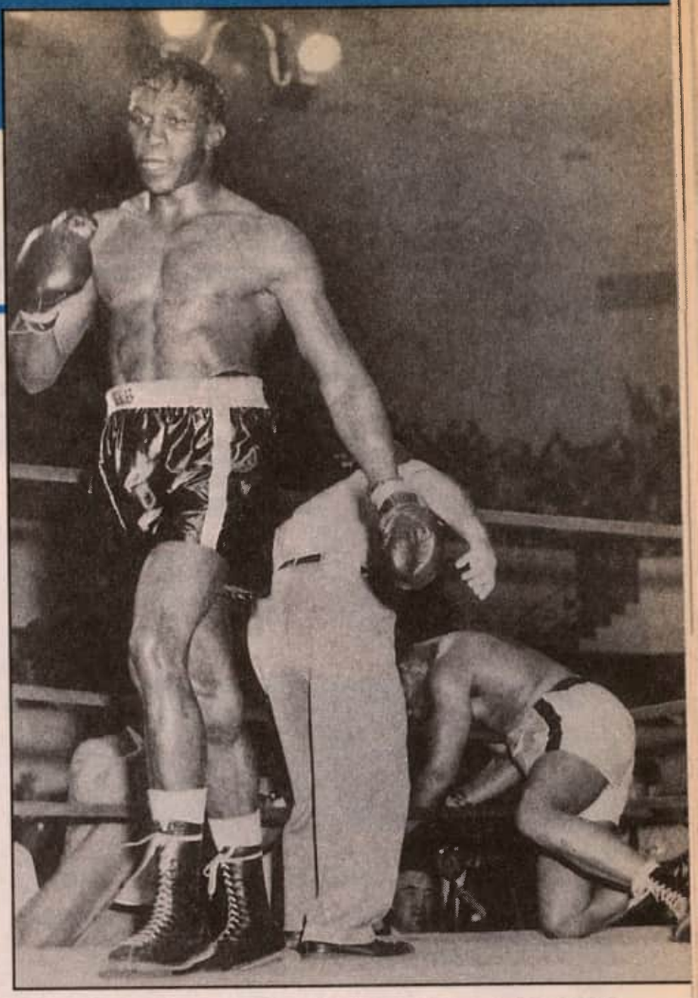
Powell's almost-moment occurred in 1954, after he came off the gridiron and proceeded, after his boxing debut ended in a draw, to crash through 11 straight opponents.

"I was one fight away; that's how fast they were moving me," recalls the 63-year-old Powell. "If I beat Charley Norkus, they had it all worked out. First was going to come [former champion] Ezzard Charles, then Marciano at the Los Angeles Coliseum.



No football player made an easier transition to boxing than Charlie Powell. Inset: Charlie and wife Irma today.

The kayo streak early in Powell's career continued when he broke the nose and bloodied the face of Keene Simmons in September 1954. Powell, 22, went 12-0 by stopping Simmons in the sixth round.



Perhaps the most impressive win of Powell's career came in March 1959, when he scored an eighth-round stoppage of top-rated contender Nino Valdes. The football player-turned-boxer dropped Valdes four times.

"That would've been my 15th fight."

The native of San Diego doesn't exactly recall the first time he put on the gloves. He does, however, remember doing roadwork with Archie Moore before school when he was only about 12, and sparring with ranked heavyweights such as Clarence Henry when he was still a year or two shy of minimum age for a driver's license.

Powell was already 6'2½" and about 200 pounds then, and boxing was not the only sport in which the teenager was turning heads. In fact, there are still San Diego high school athletes trying to break his records in track and field set before he graduated from San Diego High School in 1951.

After winning 12 varsity letters in four sports (baseball, football, track, and basketball), Powell spurned a contract offer to play hoops for the Harlem Globetrotters in favor of one to play baseball for the St. Louis Browns. But there wasn't enough action roaming the outfield for the team's farm club, so in 1952, when the San Francisco 49ers asked the man who'd been California high school football player of the year if he was interested in signing on with the pros, Powell said yes.

Fresh out of high school, he became the 49ers starting defen-

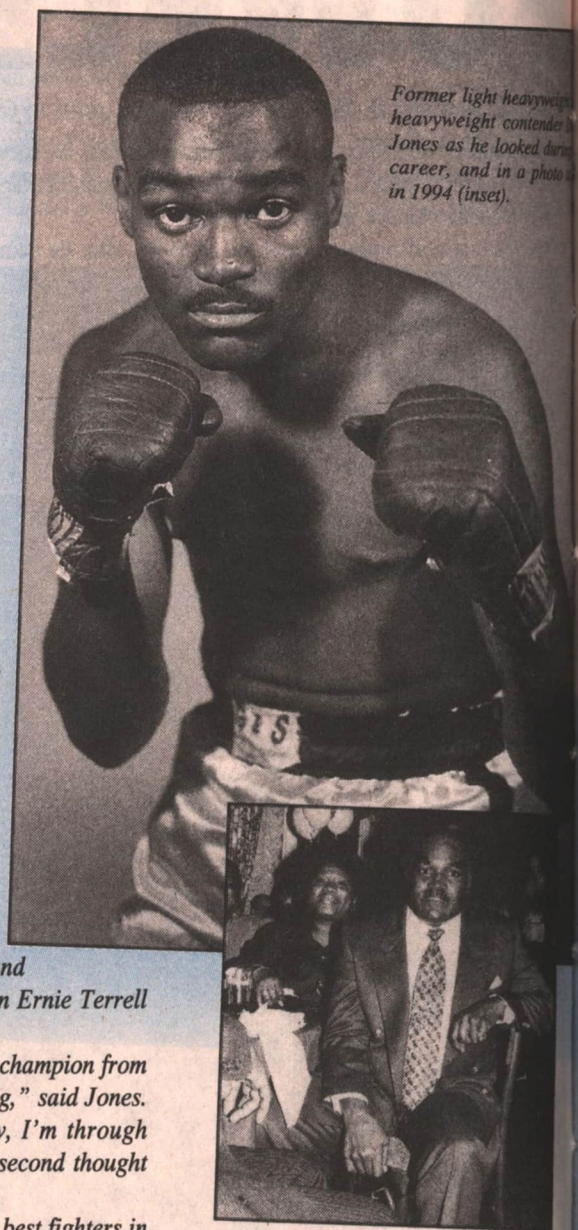
(Continued on page 73)

A DECADE TO REMEMBER

Doug Jones Relives The '60s

What was it like to fight the best? In this five-part feature, Robert Cassidy, a frequent contributor to THE RING, interviews one fighter from each of the last five decades.

This month: Doug Jones, a light heavyweight and heavyweight contender in the '60s.



Former light heavyweight heavyweight contender Jones as he looked dur career, and in a photo in 1994 (inset).

Doug Jones started boxing in the Air Force in 1956. After just five months, he joined four other members of the boxing team at the Olympic Trials. He reached the finals, falling just one win short of representing the United States in the summer games in Melbourne. But the best was yet to come.

The New York City light heavyweight turned pro in 1958. By 1960, he had defeated top-ranked light heavyweight Von Clay and former middleweight champion Bobo Olson. The 6-foot Jones was an aggressive counterpuncher who employed a bob-and-weave approach. His power-punch was a straight right hand.

"To me, there are three fighters in the history of boxing who could catch a left jab and throw a counter right with power," said Rollie Hackmer, who trained Jones. "Sugar Ray Robinson, Tony Zale, and Doug Jones. If you watch their films, they all have that in common."

The defining moment of Jones' career came at Madison Square Garden in 1963, when many people believe he beat a young Cassius Clay. However, the decision went against him. Jones twice challenged for the world title, dropping decisions to light heavyweight king Harold Johnson in 1962 and WBA heavyweight champion Ernie Terrell in 1966.

"I really felt I would be champion from the first day I started boxing," said Jones. "But I just missed it. Now, I'm through with that. I don't give it a second thought anymore."

The New Yorker met the best fighters in the light heavyweight and heavyweight divisions over his 10-year career. Of his 42 pro bouts, 11 were nationally televised. He met four Hall of Famers, six world champions, and a host of fellow contenders that included Eddie Machen, Tom McNeeley, Zora Folley, Billy Daniels, and George Chuvalo.

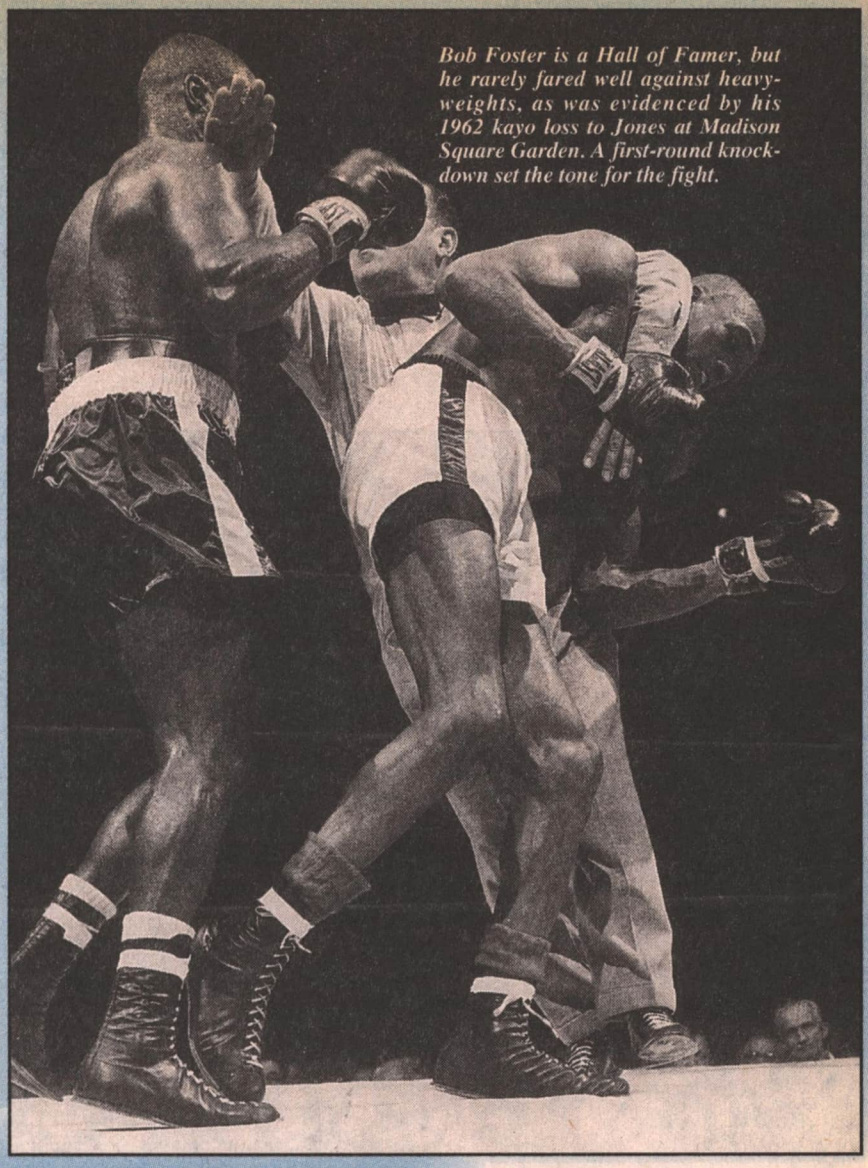
Jones was ranked among the top three in both the heavyweight and light heavyweight divisions and was a fixture in The ***Ring Record Book And Encyclopedia's***

annual ratings from 1960 to 1965. He finished with a career mark of 31-10-1 (19).

Hackmer says Jones' optimal fighting weight was 184 pounds, which didn't serve him well vs. heavyweights. Jones often gave away weight and laments the fact that he never had the opportunity to meet smallish heavyweight king Floyd Patterson.

"There were two guys who wouldn't give me a shot, Floyd Patterson and Archie Moore," said Jones. "If it was left up to Floyd, he would have given me the shot. But his manager, Cus D'Amato, knew he couldn't beat me. I would have gone through that peekaboo [defense] like a hurricane. I would have knocked him out. With Archie, he was on his way out and wasn't about to fight nobody who could do a job on him. He was old, but he wasn't dumb."

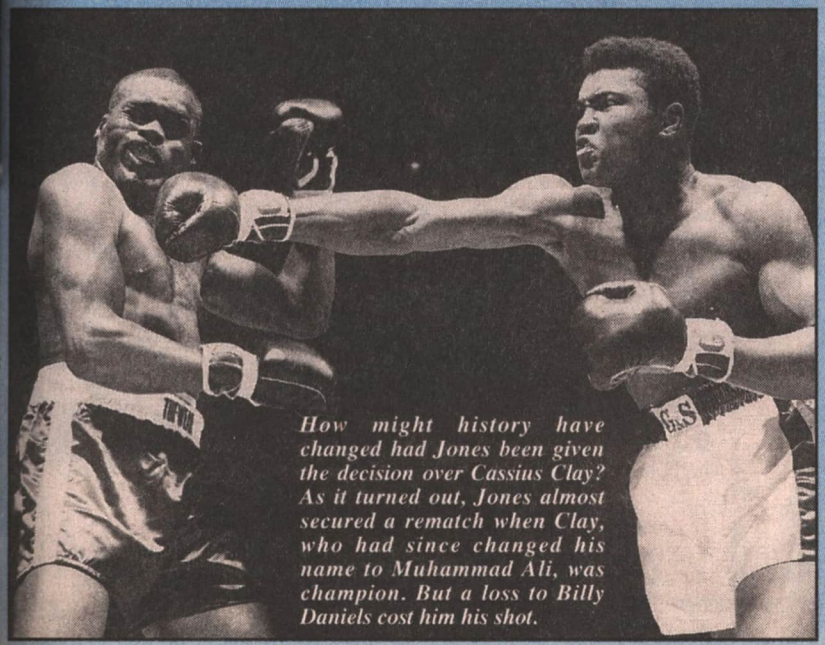
Today, Jones, 59, resides in the Bronx, New York, with his wife of 38 years, Shirley. He is an active member of Ring 8, New York City's chapter of the Veteran Boxers Association.



Bob Foster is a Hall of Famer, but he rarely fared well against heavyweights, as was evidenced by his 1962 kayo loss to Jones at Madison Square Garden. A first-round knockdown set the tone for the fight.

•In a contest for the light heavyweight title that had been stripped from Archie Moore, Jones met **Harold Johnson** at the Arena in Philadelphia on May 12, 1962. Johnson, the reigning NBA 175-pound champion, was a 2-1 favorite.

Johnson, 33, and a 17-year veteran, was 66-8. Jones, 21, was 19-1. In his previous fight, Jones had lost a decision to heavyweight contender Eddie Machen. He dropped back down to light heavyweight to meet Johnson. Both men weighed 171¾.



How might history have changed had Jones been given the decision over Cassius Clay? As it turned out, Jones almost secured a rematch when Clay, who had since changed his name to Muhammad Ali, was champion. But a loss to Billy Daniels cost him his shot.

Jones stalked Johnson for much of the fight, but the slick Philadelphian outmaneuvered and successfully countered him. Johnson won by unanimous decision (scores of 74-61, 73-64, and 71-63).

"I trained hard for that fight," said Jones. "I had to really come down in weight. The weight didn't affect me. I stayed away from salt, and that kept the weight off me. That and I did my roadwork. I was nice for that fight. I think I came in around 172.

"Johnson was a cagey fighter. He was a very good boxer. He was a safe fighter—he didn't lead too much. So I had to. I had to make the fight. Then he looked to pick

(Continued on page 77)

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

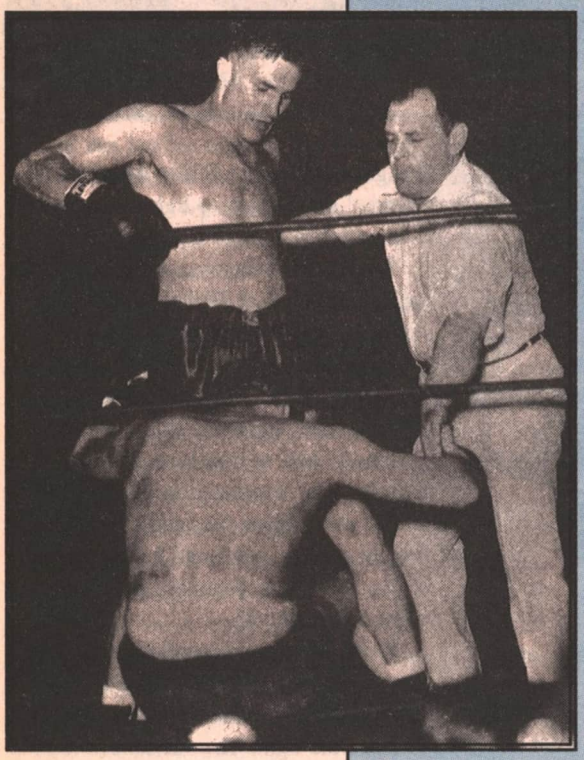
NUCLEAR POWER

(July 30, 1935)

Great punchers are born, not made. A man can be taught the boxing art, but not the knack that translates into stunning knockouts. Freddie Steele, a baby-faced middleweight out of Tacoma, Washington, was born with the knack. Big-time. His long career (1928-1941) was strung with the names of guys not accustomed to having their noses buried in the canvas; Ceferino Garcia, Fred Apostoli, Gus Lesnevich, Ken Overlin, and Vince Dundee.

Dundee is the case in point. The night he climbed into a Seattle ring to face Steele, he was a 12-year veteran with just a sprinkling of decision losses in more than 145 bouts. Dundee had held the world middleweight title for more than a year, losing it to almost-impossible-to-hit boxing master Teddy Yarosz the year before. But what set Dundee far and above other world-class fighters with decade-and-over career spans was the fact that he had never been knocked out. Could Steele's awesome power finally do what so many other shock-belters could not?

Not only did Freddie turn the trick, he damned near murdered poor Vince in the process. The fight lasted less than three rounds. But Dundee, driven by his enormous courage, fierce pride to match, and a granite chin that had worked so many miracles for him in the past, somehow managed to drag his tortured body off the floor an incredible 10 times before the referee finally stopped the slaughter. There is no way the fight would have lasted through the first round under today's rules.



An ambulance hauled what remained of Vince to the local hospital, where an examination revealed a severe concussion and double, and possibly triple, jaw fractures. The fact that he became a whole man again is remarkable. And the fact that he was back in the ring 19 months later is astonishing. Almost two years after "The Slaughter In Seattle," Dundee was trading blows with the hottest new ticket in the business, young Billy Conn—and in Billy's backyard of Pittsburgh no less. Conn got the 10-round decision, but he had to sweat for it.

For Dundee, who was born Vincent Lazzaro in Baltimore and borrowed the name Dundee from his idol, former featherweight champion Johnny Dundee, the Conn battle was yet another tribute to a remarkably durable and courageous athlete who blundered only once in his long career: by showing up in Seattle on that July night back in 1935.

Dynamic-punching Freddie Steele hammers former middleweight champion Vince Dundee through the ropes as the referee mercifully stops the slaughter in the third round. Dundee was dropped 10 times in all and suffered the first knockout of his 12-year career.

CHAMPIONS ALSO CRY

(October 18, 1951)

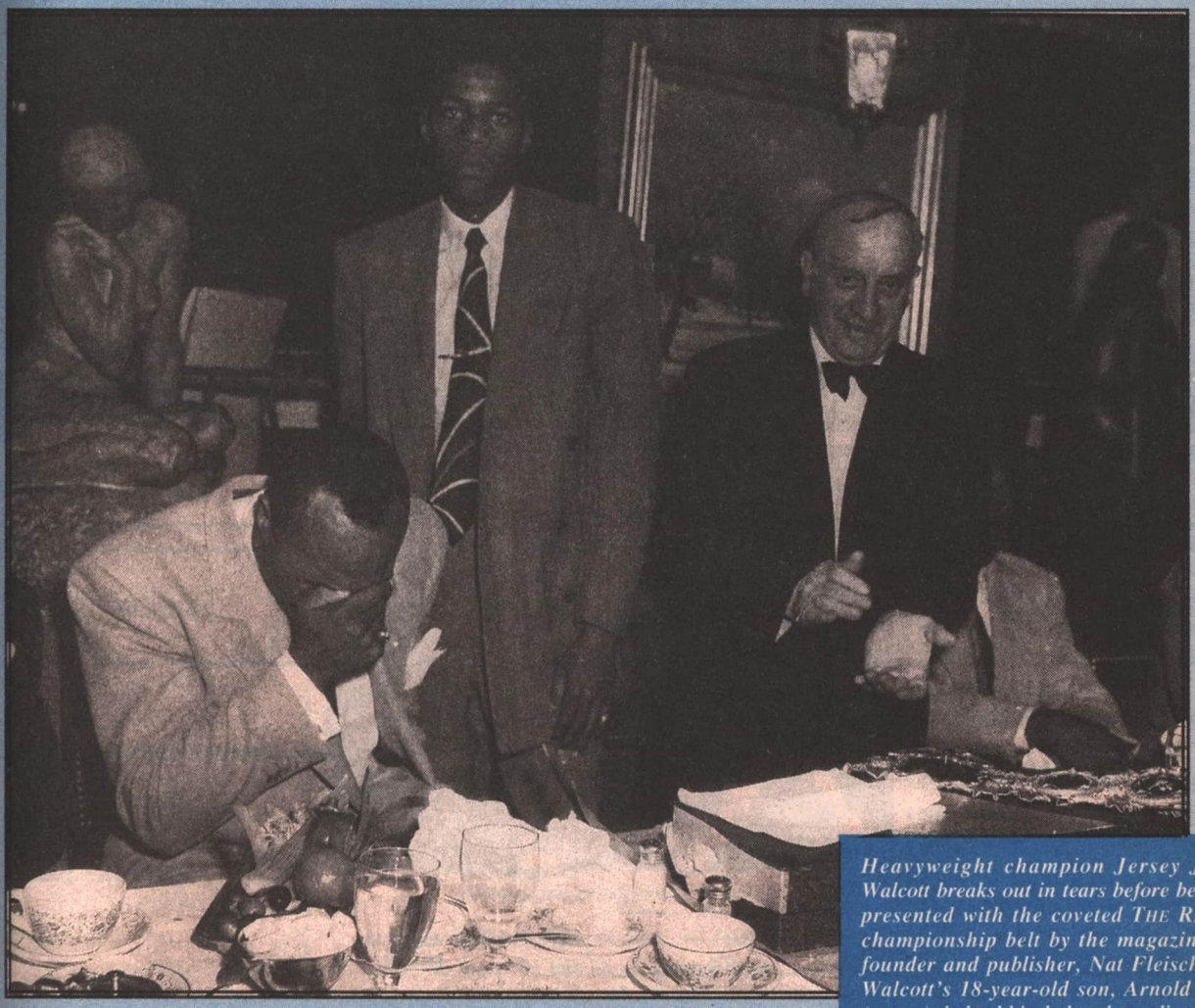
Arnold Raymond Cream showed up at a New York City restaurant wearing a perfectly tailored cream-colored suit. A bit nervous, the man famous the world over as Jersey Joe Walcott, owner of the most coveted prize in sportsdom, the heavyweight championship of the world, had been invited to lunch ... and to accept what, at the time, was considered the official and final certification of fistic royalty, the championship belt of THE RING.

After dessert (whipped cream-topped strawberry tart) and a foamy espresso that only a native Italian can create, Nat Fleischer, founder, publisher, and editor of THE RING, tapped a fork against his water glass and called for order. "We are gathered here not only to honor a true champion, but a man who, at an advanced age, at a time in life when most boxers are long-retired, accomplished a miracle by winning the heavyweight crown," intoned Fleischer as wild roars of approval filled the room. Nat opened the large, ornate box he had personally brought with him and carefully lifted from it the treasured belt, created specially for Jersey Joe, in the classic design of all of THE RING's championship belts, topped with the traditional, gilded, spread-winged eagle famous the world over.

After further praising Walcott, Fleischer called on the guest of honor to speak. But those same remarkable legs that had served him so well in battle for so many years failed to respond. Instead, the heavyweight champion's head lowered, his right hand pressing hard against his eyes as he tried to restrain the sobs and tears. For what seemed like an hour, but was actually less than two minutes, Jersey Joe remained frozen in that position, as if cast in stone, as all in the room stood and gently applauded in respect and understanding. This was an experience those lucky enough to have been there have never forgotten.

Finally, with an assist from his lanky 18-year-old son Arnold Jr. and Fleischer, Arnold Raymond Cream arose, accepted his precious award, and in a low, barely audible voice, said, simply, "Thank God. Thank you all."

As the champion fumbled while gently placing the belt back in its box, watery drops pocked the gilded, spread-winged eagle. ■



Heavyweight champion Jersey Joe Walcott breaks out in tears before being presented with the coveted THE RING championship belt by the magazine's founder and publisher, Nat Fleischer. Walcott's 18-year-old son, Arnold Jr. (center), helped his dad to the podium.

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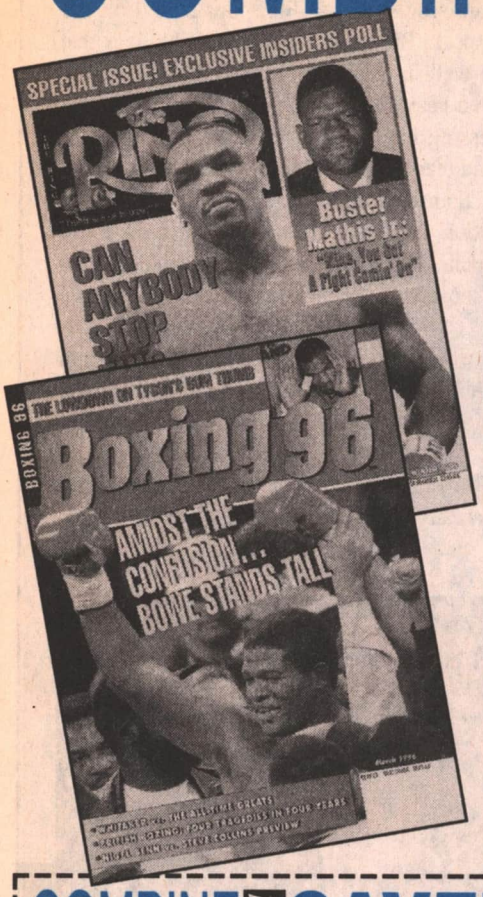

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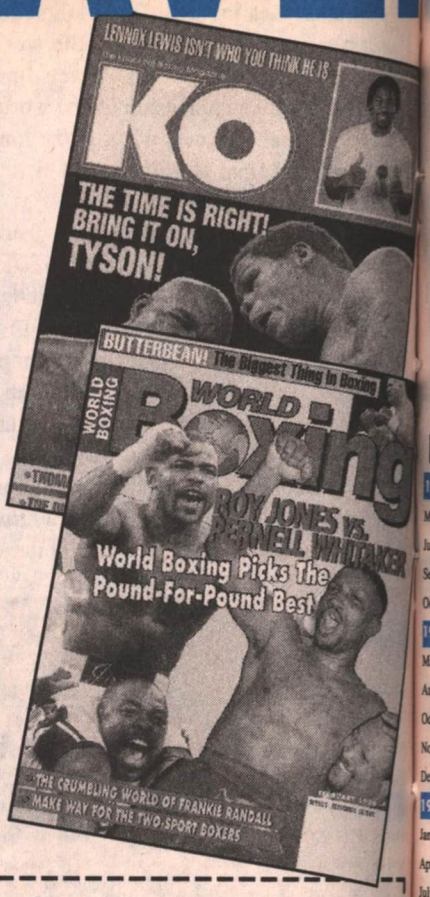

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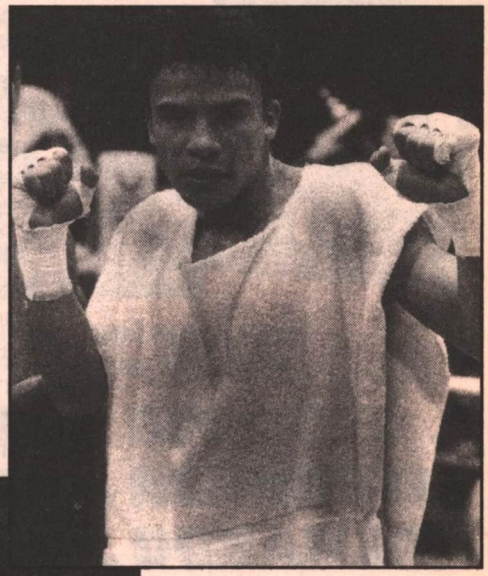
NEW FACES

JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ

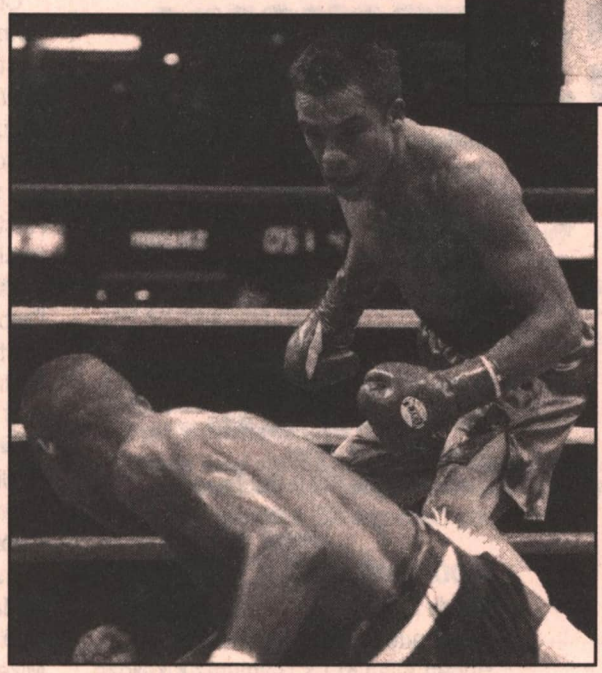
Featherweight

By Ivan G. Goldman



Naturally, hot featherweight prospect Juan Manuel Marquez watches his opponents for the usual array of jabs, hooks, uppercuts, and sneaky right hands. But what really put his career on the canvas a while back was an entirely different kind of threat—a palm tree.

At age 17, the engaging kid with the ready smile was up a tall tree in the backyard of his parents' home in Mexico City. He'd climbed the same tree innumerable times before. In fact, he felt so secure up there, he was barely paying attention. Next thing he knew …



Marquez finishes off Julio Gervacio

No punch ever felt like this. Marquez, a two-time Mexican Golden Gloves champion, was on the ground, gasping for breath.

Miraculously, the doctors said, he'd suffered no broken bones from the fall. But as days turned to weeks, then months, his back remained in terrible pain. Everything felt out of kilter. Before healing enough to reenter the gym, Marquez lost two valuable years of training.

Just how high up was Marquez when he fell? "Pretty high," he says in Spanish with a nervous smile. Then Marquez, an intelligent 22-year-old who is normally quite articulate, gives a Tom Sawyer-like shrug as if to say, "Well, boys will be boys."

His trainer, the wizardly Nacho Beristain, just shakes his head sadly. Beristain has

(Continued on page 80)

PRO RECORD

1993		
May 29	Javier Duran, Mexico City	L Disq. 1
June 26	Javier Quiroz, Mexico City	KO 3
Sept. 18	Israel Flores, Mexico City	KO 2
Oct. 1	Isaac Cortes, Mexico City	KO 5
1994		
May 7	Roman Poblano, Mexico City	W 6
Aug. 27	Gregorio Silva, Mexico City	KO 2
Oct. 1	Israel Flores, Mexico City	W 4
Nov. 12	Jose Montes, Mexico City	KO 2
Dec. 3	Israel Gonzalez, Las Vegas	KO 4
1995		
Jan. 30	Martin Ochoa, Inglewood, CA	KO 1
April 24	Julio Sanchez, Inglewood	W 10
July 10	Julio Portillo, Inglewood	KO 6
Sept. 25	Miguel Rodriguez, Inglewood	KO 1
Nov. 6	Julian Wheeler, Inglewood	KO 10
1996		
March 4	Hector Chong, Inglewood	KO 4
April 29	Julio Gervacio, Anaheim, CA	KO 8

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
16	15	1	0	12

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Jeremy Williams KO 2 Vincent Boulware
Chris Byrd W 10 Bika Botowamungo
Larry Donald KO 6 Jorge Valdes
John Ruiz KO 6 Doug Davis
Mario Schiesser W 10 Bernd Freidrich
Carl Williams W Disq. 3 Sean Hart
Brian Nielsen KO 4 Mike Hunter
Michael Grant KO 3 Ed Donaldson
Oleg Maskaev KO 7 Mike Robinson
Hasim Rahman KO 2 Martin Foster
Ahmad Abdin KO 4 Will Hinton
Everton Davis KO 4 Jeff Wooden
Alonzo Highsmith KO 2 Jim Wisnewski
Alonzo Highsmith KO 1 Paul Garner

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Patrice Aouissi KO 4 Serge Kabongo
William Guthrie W 8 John Kiser
Kenny Keene W Disq. 6 Robert Folley
Terry Dunston KO 1 John Keeton
Akim Tafer KO 4 Alexei Iliin
Derek Angol KO 3 Cesar Kazadi
Brian LaSpada KO 2 Luis Garcia

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Henry Maske W 12 John Scully
(Retains IBF Title)
Dariusz Michalczewski W 12 Christophe Girard
Rocky Gannon KO 10 Richard Hall
Richard Frazier KO 6 Anthony Hembrick
Chris Tiozzo W 8 Philippe Michel

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Frank Liles KO 3 Tim Littles
(Retains WBA Title)
Joe Calzaghe KO 2 Pat Lawlor
Joe Calzaghe KO 2 Warren Stowe

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Buddy McGirt KO 3 Israel Figueroa
Paul Vaden KO 6 Clem Tucker
Robert Allen KO 3 Teymuraz Kikelidze
Glenwood Brown KO 3 Jeff Passero
Robert McCracken KO 5 Humberto Aranda
Joaquin Velasquez W 10 Rafael Williams

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Winky Wright W 12 Bronco McKart
Mark Breland W 10 Darryl Lattimore
Mark Breland KO 3 Buck Smith
Adrian Dodson KO 7 Johnny Bosco
Shibata Flores KO 2 Godfrey Nyakana
Ray Lovato W 10 Jose Luis Verdugo
Ernie Artango W 10 Ernie Alesna
Nika Kumalo W 10 Delroy Bryan
Nick Rupa KO 3 Harold Bennett
Engels Pedroza KO 5 James Gatlin
Harold Brazier KO 7 Rob Bleakley
Livingstone Bramble KO 1 Tony Bennett

WELTERWEIGHTS

Felix Trinidad KO 5 Fred Pendleton
(Retains IBF Title)
Pat Coleman KO 10 Derrell Coley
Oba Carr KO 5 Benny Barra
Alfred Ankamah KO 4 Oscar Checa
Jose Luis Navarro KO 3 David Salguera
Maxim Nesterenko KO 5 Michael Smyth
Anthony Ivory KO 2 Carl Griffith
Ricky Hesia W 10 Javier Altimirano
Willie Wise KO 8 Alfredo Rojas

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Oscar De La Hoya KO 4 Julio Cesar Chavez
(Wins WBC Title)
Kostya Tszyu KO 4 Corey Johnson
(Retains IBF Title)
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 5 Juan Soberanes
Jan Bergman KO 3 Juan Martin Galvan
Hector Quiroz KO 3 Ameth Aranda
Hector Lopez W 10 Juan Carlos Villareal
Diobelys Hurtado W 8 Cesar Flores
Marty Jakubowski W 12 Verdell Smith
Pedro Saiz W 10 Arturo Nina

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Phillip Holiday KO 2 Jeff Fenech
(Retains IBF Title)
George Scott W 12 Pete Taliaferro
Leavander Johnson KO 2 Jose Luis Madrid
Ivan Robinson W Disq. 9 Sammy Mejias
Mike Clark W 10 Lyndon Paul Walker
Little Guns Pumar KO 2 Francisco Valdez
Billy Schwer KO 3 Gareth Jordan
Justin Rowsell KO 10 Mark Fernandez

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Azumah Nelson KO 6 Jesse James Leija
(Retains WBC Title)
Derrick Gainer KO 6 Javier Diaz
Chico Castillo KO 6 Ricardo Rivera
Hector Lizarraga KO 5 Gabriel Castro
John Brown KO 8 Santos Lopez
Carlos Gerena KO 2 Jose Antonio Ocampo
Edwin Santana W 10 Rafael Meran
Jimmi Bredahl W 8 Peter Harris

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Wilfredo Vazquez KO 11 Eloy Rojas
(Wins WBA Title)
Naseem Hamed KO 2 Daniel Alicea
Jesus Chavez W 10 Felipe Castillo
Colin McMillan W 12 Jon Jo Irwin
Darryl Pinckney KO 7 Guty Espadas Jr.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Erik Morales W 12 Hector Acero-Sanchez
Enrique Sanchez W 10 Ricardo Vargas
Agapito Sanchez KO 3 Roland Gomez
Frankie Toledo W 12 Max Gomez

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Jorge Eliecer Julio W 10 Antonio Ramirez
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk KO 5 Khaoyai Mahasarakam
Johnny Bredahl W 12 Alexander Yagupov

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Johnny Tapia KO 8 Ivan Alvarez
Danny Romero KO 3 Esteban Ayala

FLYWEIGHTS
Alberto Jimenez W 12 Jose Lopez
Miguel Martinez KO 5 Enrique Orozco
Jesper Jensen W 12 Salvatore Fanni
Paul Weir KO 1 Louis Veitch
Sammy Stewart KO 7 Miguel Granados
Nelson Dieppa KO 6 Pablo Tiznado

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Keiji Yamaguchi W 12 Carlos Murillo
(Wins WBA Title)

STRAWWEIGHTS
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin W 12 Juan Arlos
(Regains Vacant IBF Title)

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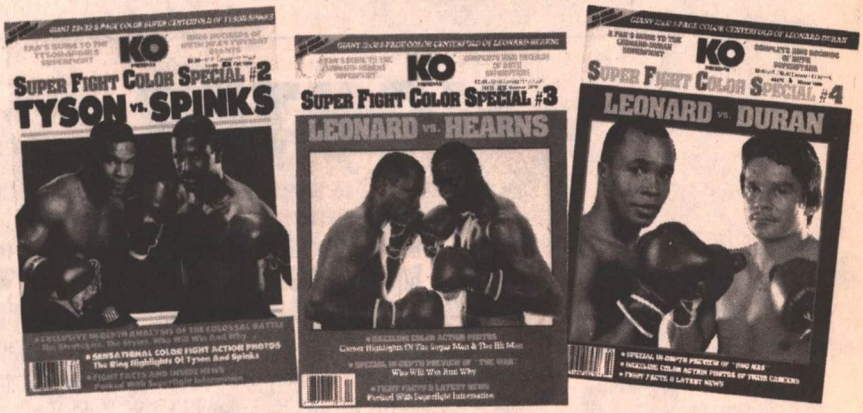

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Seconds Out! ENTERPRISES PRESENTS

FIGHTER of the MONTH

When Puerto Rico's Wilfredo Vazquez lost the WBA junior featherweight title on his home turf to Venezuela's Antonio Cermeno, it was all too easy to dismiss him. After all, how many lighter-weight fighters who are dethroned at age 33 move up in weight and win another title?

Maybe it's time we stopped underestimating the banger from Bayamon. Vazquez has never been as flashy as Puerto Rican champions like Wilfred Benitez and Wilfredo Gomez, but in taking the WBA featherweight title from a solid champion in Eloy Rojas, he again proved his mettle. After 10 rounds, Vasquez was behind on all three cards and seemingly fading. Summoning a pair of left hooks from his youth, he turned the fight in the 11th, and then, with the focus of a hardened veteran, made sure to finish Rojas without any delay.

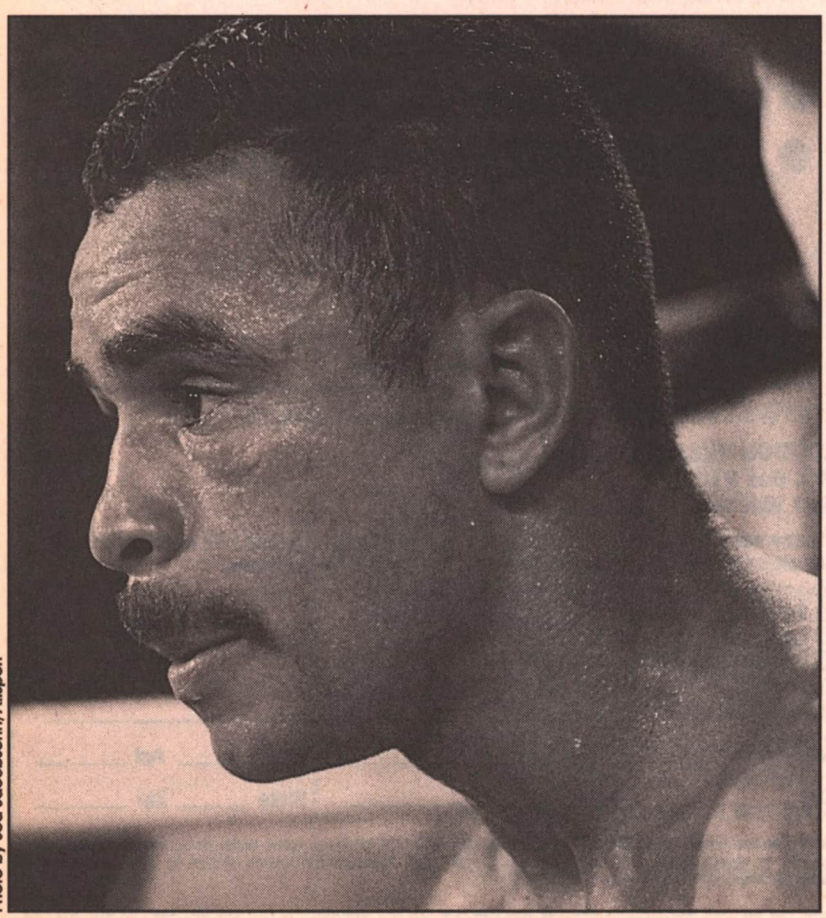

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

Championship belts are cheap these days, and Vazquez' accomplishment of winning world titles at three different weights isn't as impressive as it might seem. He's certainly not Hall of Fame material, and when he retires, they won't make a big deal of it, even in Puerto Rico. But in beating Rojas, he reminded us of what kind of fighter he has always been. The kind you don't miss until he's gone.

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Wilfredo Vazquez

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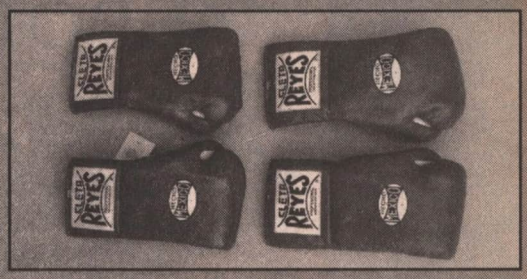

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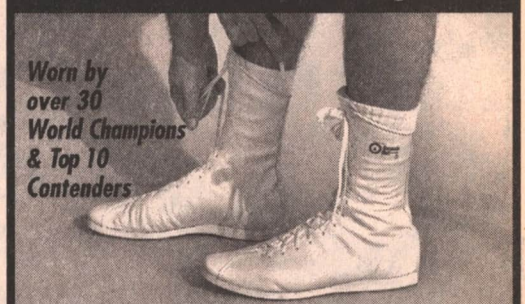

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

Felix Trinidad KO 5 Fred Pendleton

Las Vegas, Nevada: Don King keeps wooing WBC champion Pernell Whitaker with a guarantee of $4-million to face IBF titlist Trinidad in a welterweight unification match. He's not even asking for options. However, if "Sweet Pea" saw the explosion his counterpart laid on Pendleton, it's a cinch he'll want the ante raised.

Defending for the ninth time, the 23-year-old Trinidad, 147, Cupey Alto, Puerto Rico, started cautiously, then finished Pendleton, 147, Miami, Florida, with one punch before 2,500 fans at The Mirage. It was only Pendleton's second stoppage defeat in 65 fights.

Former lightweight champion Pendleton, 33, boxed well, but was too small to deal with the 5'11" Trinidad. Over the first two rounds, the challenger kept Trinidad occupied with herky-jerky head feints, but his jab was consistently short. Late in the third, Trinidad, 29-0 (25), began aiming for the body. However, it was Pendleton, 40-21-4 (28), who landed the round's best punch, a straight right.

Trinidad accelerated in the fourth. Twice he was warned by referee Richard Steele for punching low. Just before the bell, the Puerto Rican caught his man with a lead right and a hook to the body.

In the fifth, Pendleton looked twice to his corner before suddenly and voluntarily backing to the ropes. Seizing the opportunity, Trinidad dipped low, faked a right, and stepped in with a picture-book hook to the beltline. Pendleton dropped like an anvil, landing on his left side just inside the ropes. He seemed unable to move as Steele counted him out at the 1:30 mark.

"It was [a hook] to the liver, and I practice it a lot in the gym," Trinidad said of the kayo punch. "Whoever gets hit with that punch doesn't stay standing. If Pernell Whitaker gets hit with it, he's going to retire from boxing."

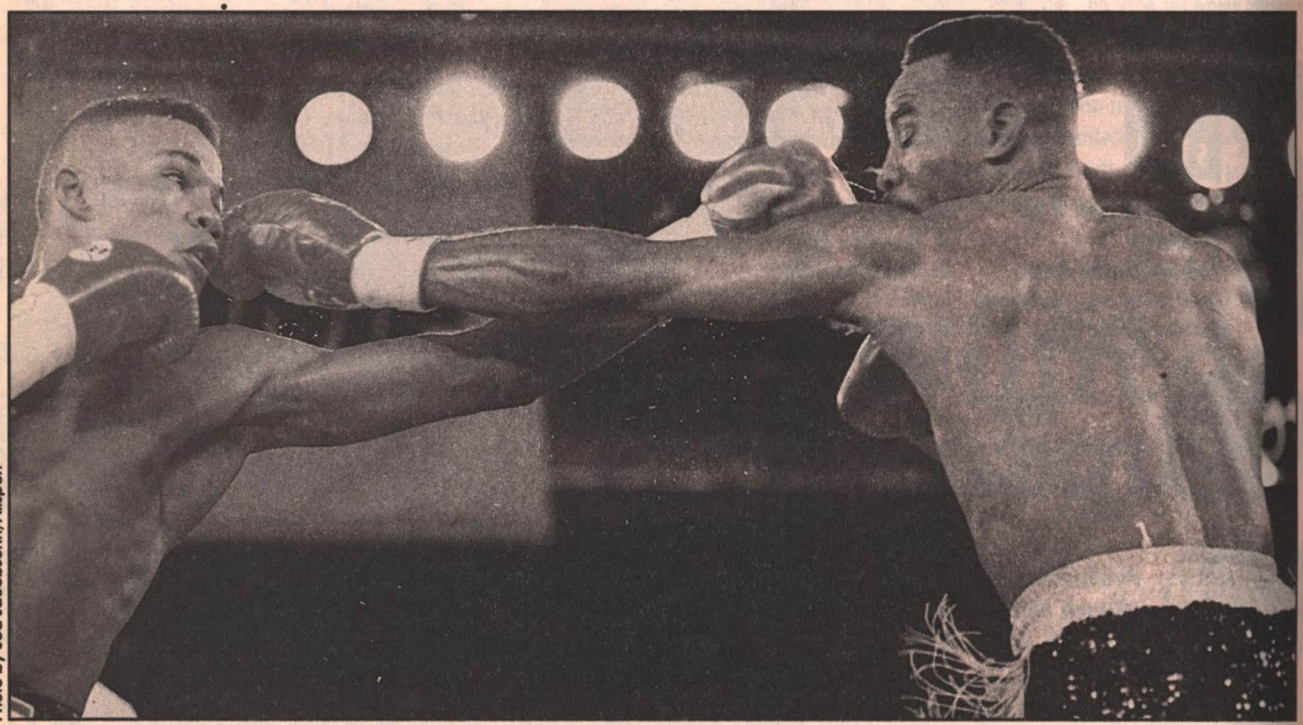


Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

Trinidad and Pendleton cross swords

Pendleton, who was taken to Valley Hospital for observations and then released, said he felt dizzy in the fifth round. "It came on suddenly," he said, "and just before Trinidad caught me with that liver punch."

"I think he got caught a couple of shots the round before," said Pendleton's trainer-manager, Al Bonanni. "He was lethargic in the dressing room, and he wasn't right during the fight."

Bonanni indicated that Pendleton would fight on, dropping back down to junior welterweight.

The judges were Mike Glienna, Glen Hamada, and Jerry Roth, all from the USA.

Trinidad earned $550,000 and Pendleton $90,000.

Promoter: Don King

(5-18-96)

Jack Welsh

Wilfredo Vazquez KO 11 Eloy Rojas

Las Vegas, Nevada: Averting certain defeat, Vazquez reached deep for that little extra and became a triple-crown champion by dethroning WBA featherweight titlist Rojas at The Mirage. It was Rojas' seventh defense.

Formerly a WBA champion at bantamweight and junior featherweight, the 34-year-old Vazquez, 126, Bayamon, Puerto Rico, joined two other Wilfredos, Benitez and Gomez, as three-division champions from his native island. And he did so in spectacular fashion; cut and trailing on all three cards, mandatory challenger Vazquez floored the 29-year-old Rojas, 125½, Caracas, Venezuela, before stopping him at the 1:21 mark of the 11th round.

Afterward, Rojas announced his retirement.

Rojas' seven-inch advantage in reach enabled him to control the tempo from the start. Until the finish, Vazquez' best weapon was a lunging overhand right that kept him off-balance more than it did the champion. When Vazquez did manage to work his way inside, Rojas' hand speed allowed him to outpunch the challenger three to one.

A 2-1 underdog, Vazquez won only one round, the third, on all three cards. In that stanza, he caught Rojas with a hard right to the heart, and another right to the head. Rojas opened the sixth with five quick jabs, then fired a right before doubling back with two rights to the head. Next came a combination that opened a cut over Vazquez' left eye. Still, Vazquez kept coming, and rarely did Rojas enjoy much punching room.

In the seventh and eighth, a salvo of lefts forced Vazquez to back up and hold. And given the way the Venezuelan dominated the 10th, scoring with two- and three-punch combinations, there wasn't the slightest hint of the thunder to come.

About one minute into the 11th, Vazquez staggered Rojas with two hooks. A followup right drove the champion into the ropes, and referee Mitch Halpern (USA) correctly ruled a knockdown. After the count, Rojas, 33-2-1 (25), punched his way to ring-center, but Vazquez, 47-7-3 (35), exploded with a hook-right-right-hook combination that sent the champion toward the canvas. An alert Halpern waved the fight over and caught the unconscious Rojas before his head hit the floor.

After 10 rounds, Oscar Perez (USA) had it 98-92, Guillermo Perez (Panama) 100-92, and Dave Moretti (USA) 96-94. RING saw Rojas ahead by 98-94.

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

Vazquez had Rojas looking for a seat

"I made history tonight," said Vazquez. "I believe winning a third world title at 34 is much sweeter. There has never been a WBA champion with three titles at different weights. And best of all, my Puerto Rican people were here, and that lifted me up."

Said Rojas, "I guess I got a little lax and I got caught. There will be no rematch, no comeback. I'm finished with boxing."

Rojas earned $100,000 and Vazquez $40,000.

The bout, the co-feature on the Trinidad-Pendleton card, was televised on Showtime.

Promoter: Don King

(5-18-96)

Jack Welsh

Kostya Tszyu KO 4 Corey Johnson

Sydney, Australia: Hard-punching Tszyu moved a small step closer to a 1997 dream fight with Oscar De La Hoya by brutalizing substitute Johnson before 7,000 screaming fans at the Entertainment Centre. It was Tszyu's third defense.

The Russian-born Tszyu, 138½, Sydney, Australia, opened cautiously as the unranked southpaw challenger danced out of harm's way for most of the first round. In round two, the pigtail-haired champion found his range as Johnson, 140, Detroit, Michigan, began to buckle under a relentless body beating.

Johnson's only option was to stand his ground and attempt the impossible, but it was akin to fighting off a Siberian black bear with a flyswatter. In the third, the 26-year-old Tszyu, 17-0 (13), dropped the challenger with two hooks and a right to the ribs. Johnson, 25, was up at Australian referee Billy Males' count of nine. He was saved by the bell, and as he returned to his corner, he shook his head, a sure sign that he was resigned to his fate.

It was a brave cornerman (Blue Lewis) who sent Johnson out for the fourth round. After scoring with a couple of pesky jabs to the

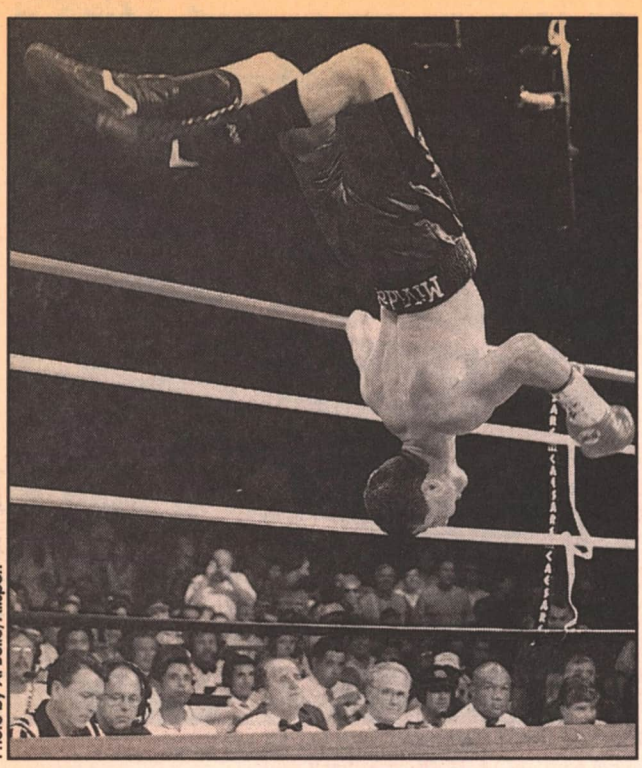


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Tapia celebrated by jumping for joy

nose, Tszyu put Johnson, 20-2-1 (7), back on the deck with a combination of body blows. Males counted him out at the 1:21 mark as Boris Tszyu, the champion's father, burst into the ring with IBF championship belt in tow.

The judges were Ray Wheatley (Australia), Paul Weitzel (USA), and Mohamed Binsjech (Indonesia).

Said Tszyu's trainer, Johnny Lewis, "The power of this kid is just—*unnatural*."

Johnson took the fight on two weeks notice. He was a replacement for Sharmba Mitchell, who had replaced Guiseppe Sauli.

It is anticipated that Tszyu's next outing will be against Sauli or mandatory challenger Jan Bergman.

(5-24-96)

Daniel Gaylor

Johnny Tapia KO 8 Ivan Alvarez

Las Vegas, Nevada: The band on the back of Tapia's trunks read *Mi Vida Loco*, and for one of boxing's most compelling figures, life gets a little crazier with each additional victory.

Performing on the undercard of De La Hoya-Chavez, unbeaten junior bantamweight Tapia played to the sellout crowd of 16,000 at Caesars Palace; he entered the ring wearing a giant sombrero, mugged for the cameras, goaded Alvarez into a foul-fest, and boxed well enough to limit his opponent to a paltry connect rate of 25 percent.

"Did you notice anything different?" said gleeful trainer Miguel Diaz. "No more this [Diaz demonstrated a high guard]. He's *slipping* punches now, not just blocking them."

Tapia, 115, Albuquerque, New Mexico, dominated from the start, outfighting the unaccomplished Alvarez, 114, Monteria, Colombia, in every round. The fan favorite, who is co-managed by Sugar Ray Leonard, ended the first round with a sizzling hook, then briefly considered attacking Alvarez after the bell. The 29-year-old Tapia, 36-0-2 (22), led with lots of hooks in the second, and turned southpaw in the fourth, repeatedly connecting with straight lefts. He opened the fifth with movement, and upon resuming a flatfooted style, raised his right glove and screamed at Alvarez, 26, to fight. The confused and outgunned Colombian responded by flinging weak jabs and retreating.

In the sixth, a four-punch combination, punctuated by a big right, marked the beginning of the end. Two rounds later, a booming right, followed by two more rights, prompted Alvarez, 12-3 (6), to turn his back before falling to the canvas. He rose before being counted out, but referee Richard Steele (USA) nonetheless called a halt at the 1:31 mark. In a classless move, Tapia faked rushing his victim as a dizzy Alvarez was trying to regain his senses.

"He got me by surprise," said Alvarez. "He gave me an unexpected punch."

Alvarez must be new to the game. The rest of us have come to expect the unexpected from Tapia.

The judges were Chuck Giampa (USA), Nelson Vasquez (Puerto Rico), and Jerry Roth (USA).

Promoter: Top Rank

(6-7-96)

Steve Farhood

Erik Morales W 12 Hector Acero-Sanchez

Las Vegas, Nevada: Boasting veterans like Orlando Canizales, Kennedy McKinney, Junior Jones, Daniel Zaragoza, Welcome Ncita, and Vuyani Bungu, and featuring the sensational Marco Antonio Barrera, the junior featherweight division is arguably the best in boxing. And there's more championship talent on the way, with teenager Morales passing the sternest test of his career by unanimously outpointing former world champion Acero-Sanchez on the De La Hoya-Chavez undercard at Caesars Palace.

Morales, 19, successfully defended the NABF 122-pound crown.

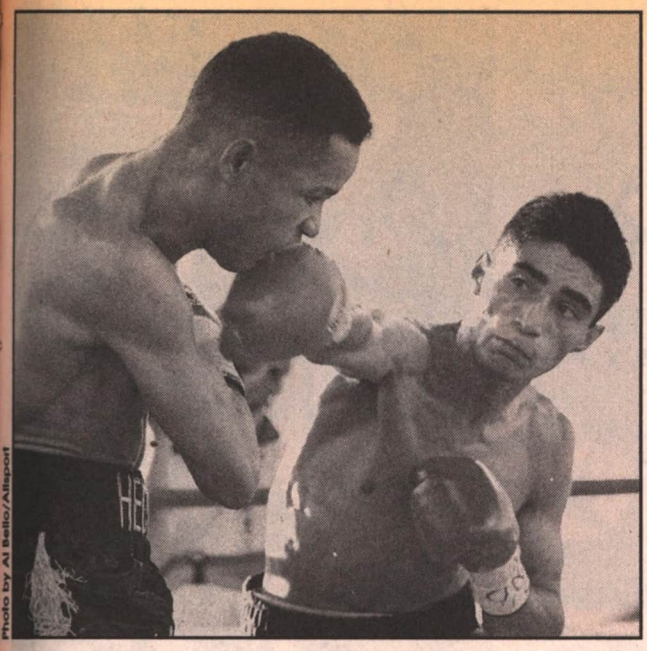
Morales, 120½, Tijuana, Mexico, was too strong and aggressive for defensive wizard Acero-Sanchez, 122, New York City via the Dominican Republic. It's not often that a fighter can win a decision by landing only 33 percent of his punches, but what Morales landed was telling.

"The fight was very complicated because I couldn't figure him out," said the winner. "I will try and prepare myself better for this type of fight."

Acero-Sanchez, 30, spent most of his time slipping and sliding away. His jab was only occasionally effective, and his major weapon, a counter right, never came into play. Meanwhile, Morales waited for opportunities, and it seemed that whenever he connected cleanly, Acero-Sanchez wobbled.

Morales first broke through in the fourth, beating his opponent to the trigger with a right. Another right, landing with 10 seconds remaining in the sixth, left Acero-Sanchez, 33-4-3 (21), wiggling. And in the 10th, Morales, 23-0 (18), came out of Acero-Sanchez' corner with a hook to the jaw that shook the Dominican. Morales, however, was never able to floor his foe.

Both fighters suffered cuts; Sanchez was marked around the left eye early in the fight, and Morales showed a laceration over



Morales zeroes in on Acero-Sanchez

his right eye in the 12th. Moreover, Morales said he injured his right hand in round six.

Al Siciliano and Bill Graham both scored 118-110 and Dick Cole 118-111. THE RING had Morales in front by 117-112. The referee was Jay Nady (USA).

Promoter: Top Rank

(6-7-96)

Steve Farhood

Phillip Holiday KO 2 Jeff Fenech

Melbourne, Australia: The end of Fenech's storybook career came at the hands of underrated IBF lightweight champion Holiday, who shocked the triple-crown titlist, as well as a partisan crowd of 5,000, at the Glasshouse. It was Holiday's third defense.

The 25-year-old Holiday, 134, Benoni, South Africa, opened as a 7-2 underdog. The odds seemed absurd when, with 40 seconds remaining in the opening round, he caught Fenech, 134, Sydney, Australia, with an overhand right that was launched from the floor. When the champion followed with a right-hook-hook-right combination, the 31-year-old Fenech crashed. He rose at American referee Robert Byrd's count of four, but gave little hope of a full recovery.

Fenech, 28-3-1 (21), backpedaled at the start of the second. With 50 seconds left, another overhand right again dropped him. He picked himself up, and as Byrd was assessing the damage, a white towel of surrender came flying from the challenger's corner. In what will hopefully be Fenech's final act of courage as a professional fighter, he attempted to kick the towel out of the ring, but the fight was nonetheless stopped at the 2:18 mark.

The judges were James Boland (Australia), Lulani Mtya (South Africa), and Jacob Limahelu (Indonesia).

Holiday's countryman and former world champion Brian Mitchell described the kayo as "a case of a good big man beating a good little man." (Fenech's world titles came at bantamweight, junior featherweight, and featherweight.) Perhaps Holiday, 28-0 (16), summed it up best when he said, "Fenech had his time, and now it's my time."

As for Fenech, he made no excuses and immediately re-retired. He said he hopes to train young fighters and do whatever he can to help boxing in Australia.

(5-18-96)

Daniel Gaylor

Henry Maske W 12 John Scully

Leipzig, Germany: Maske seems to improve with age, and if proof were needed, it was provided in a masterful 12-round performance against Scully, whom the 32-year-old defeated by unanimous decision to retain the IBF light heavyweight title at Exhibition Hall. It was his 10th defense.

Occasions when Maske, 173¾, Frankfurt, Germany, was not in supreme command were few. He used his southpaw jab like a lion-tamer might use an extended staff. He flurried whenever Scully, 174½, Windsor, Connecticut, threatened to steal his thunder. And at the conclusion, he lapped up the adulation of the 14,000-strong crowd that extended, via German television, to an audience of 14 million (five million more than viewed Germany's soccer cup final hours earlier).

The significance of such a staggering number of viewers is strengthened by the fact that most German fight fans were aware of Scully's limitations. Game throughout, he offered little in the way of productive offense. But he doggedly fought his way to the final bell and deservedly earned both Maske's and the crowd's respect for his effort.

The challenger had a good opening round, slicing a number of right counters between Maske's guard. But there were not many more successful moments for him. Maske tightened his defense from the second round, and from this point was only caught by the occasional solid punch. He never went flat-out, but produced more than enough to comfortably win the remaining rounds. Scully, 31-6 (21), knew he was outclassed, but never stopped trying to land a significant punch that might swing the fight his way.

"He was so awkward, and he's so tall," said Scully. "I knew I couldn't outpoint him, so I tried for one punch."

The 28-year-old Scully hit trouble in the eighth, when Maske upped the pace after landing solidly with a few combinations. But the challenger refused to fall, and afterward Maske, 30-0 (12), seemed reluctant to press home for the finish. When the final bell sounded, the two men embraced and Maske accepted the plaudits from his people.

Otto Ellensohn (Germany) and Ricardo Vilan (Italy) gave every round to Maske, scoring 120-108. Bill Lerch (USA) scored 119-109. THE RING also had it 119-109, awarding Scully only the first round.

Afterward, Maske repeated his declaration that he wants just one more fight. Plans are afoot for him to face WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill in a unification contest.

"Both the IBF and the WBA have approved that bout, and we are working toward making it happen," confirmed Maske's promoter, Jean Marcel Nartz.

Promoters: Cedric Kushner and Jean Marcel Nartz, in association with the RTL television network

(5-25-96)

Brian Doogan ■

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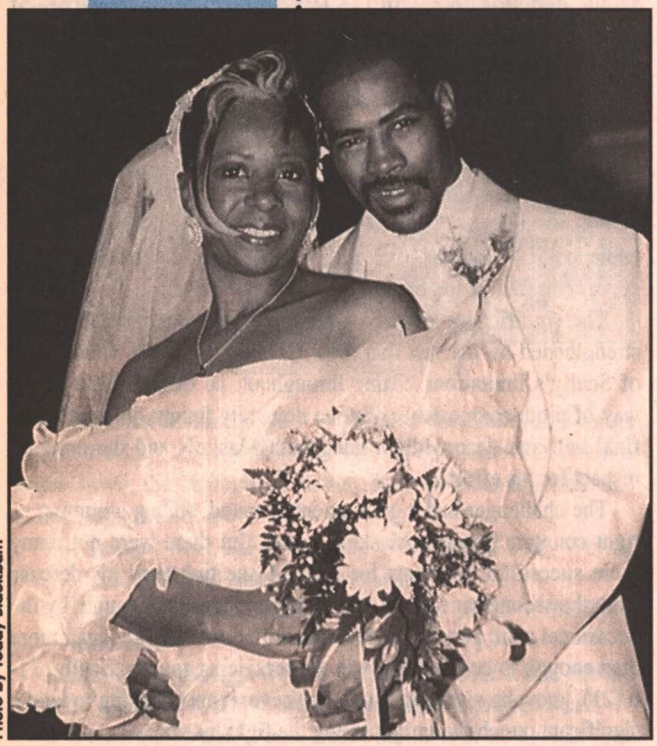

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Instead of timekeepers' bells, it was wedding bells for IBF featherweight champion Tom Johnson, who recently married the former Charlotte Heard.

Yesterday meets today: At a banquet in Tokyo, WBA middleweight king Shinji Takehara, Japan's most recent world champion, greets former flyweight boss Yoshio Shirai, the first Japanese to win a world title.

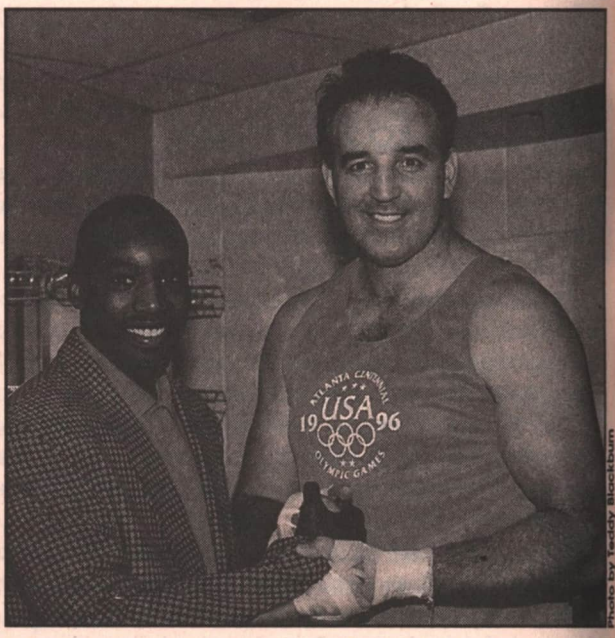

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Unbeaten middleweight Lonnie Bradley greets Gerry Cooney, who boxed in a charity exhibition at Madison Square Garden.

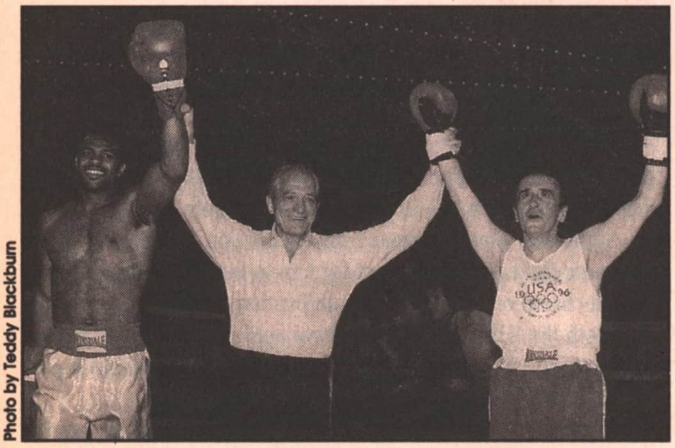

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Roy Jones fighting to a draw? In a charity match at The Theater at Madison Square Garden, Jones took on Richard A. Grasso, the chairman and CEO of the New York Stock Exchange. The referee was Arthur Mercante.

The annual WBA awards dinner in Atlantic City was a star-studded affair. Among those in attendance (from left): Floyd Patterson, WBA President Gilberto Mendoza, Joey Giardello, Archie Moore, and Joe Frazier.

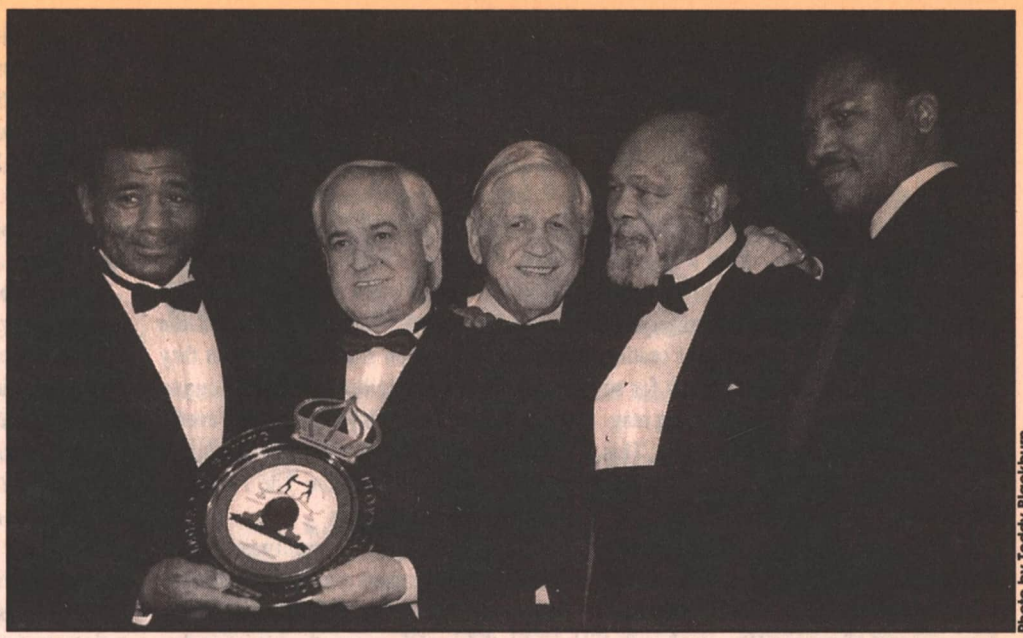

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Photo by Scott Romer

Prince Charles Williams was made to feel like royalty by the children of Nice, France, where the former world champion kayoed Chris Vernon in two rounds.

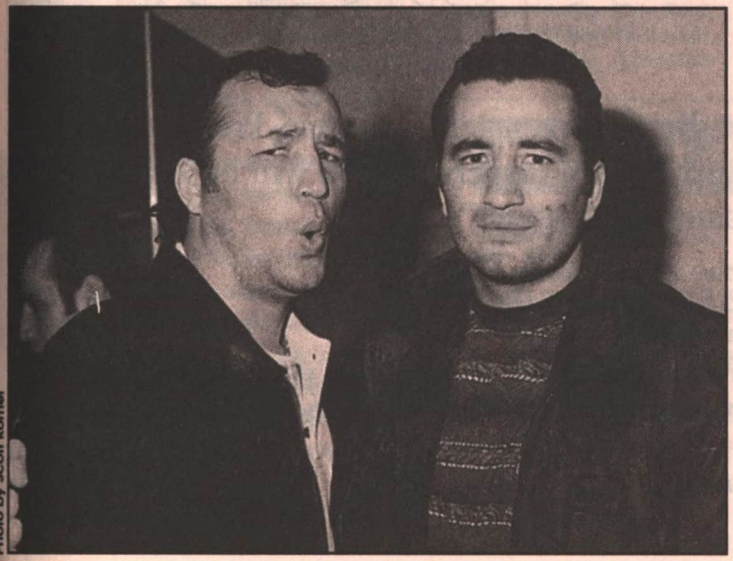

Photo by Scott Romer

Flying Frenchmen Chris and Fabrice Tiozzo have been making headlines. The comebacking Chris is a former super middleweight champion, while younger brother Fabrice was WBC light heavyweight titlist until recently moving up to cruiserweight.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Watch out, he doesn't look like he's kidding! At a 1961 party for the recently completed movie Requiem For A Heavyweight, *former heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey clowns with Anthony Quinn and producer David Susskind.*

Nelson-Leija

(Continued from page 21)

To a lot of Americans, Nelson, 39-3-2 (28), is an exotic curiosity from a place they'd have trouble locating on a map, an enigma who shows up on our shores every now and then and beats up some guy we thought had a pretty good chance of beating him. The thing is, he's been doing it for so long, even folks who don't read boxing magazines are finally getting the message: This strange fighter from a strange land is something special.

In retrospect, nobody should have been surprised that Nelson's most recent visit to the United States turned out to be another in a long series of triumphs. The very fact that Leija, 30-3-2 (14), had drawn with and outpointed Nelson in two previous title fights boded ill for the challenger. As Nelson constantly reminded us, "Nobody can beat me twice."

The fact is, only a few have tried. One of the two other men to have beaten Nelson was Salvador Sanchez, who died in an auto crash less than two months after their 1982 match. And the other, Pernell Whitaker, who outpointed Nelson in a 1990 lightweight title bout, is now campaigning as a welterweight.

Actually, it was his second fight with Jeff Fenech that earned Nelson his rematch reputation. Officially, their first encounter, June '91 in Las Vegas, was a draw, but practically everybody except the judges thought the Australian had been shafted. Yet when they fought again in Melbourne the following year, Nelson thoroughly dismantled Fenech, and scored an eighth-round knockout. It would not be the last time The Professor would confound the critics.

Even with Nelson's greatness firmly established, he remains a mystery to many, a fighter who doesn't quite fit into any convenient category. Of course, the key to understanding Nelson the fighter is understanding Nelson the man. And in most ways, he's a man defined by his roots.

"Azumah is very much a man of Africa," said photojournalist Arlene Schulman, who has visited Nelson at his home near Accra. "He represents Ghana to the outside world. When he wins, the whole country wins. When he loses, the whole country loses. He's so popular, the people practically kiss the ground he walks on. But it hasn't gone to his head, and he leads a relatively low-key existence. He's not ostentatious, never flaunts his wealth, and is willing to share some of it with his people."

Unlike so many fighters, Nelson never got caught up in the celebrity lifestyle, and seldom lingers in the U.S. after a fight is over. Following a few trips to the American fast-food restaurants he adores, it's right back to Ghana, where, according to Schulman, Nelson began his working life as a street vendor, "selling dresses, sugar cane, bananas—anything that could be placed on a tray and balanced on his head." Now he owns a number of businesses, including a brick-manufacturing plant, a restaurant, and several import-export companies.

Nelson's fighting style is a strange hybrid. He's best described as a cerebral slugger, and it's what goes on inside of his head that is his greatest asset. He's cool, calculating, with just the right touch of fanaticism. And never, even under the most trying

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circumstances, does he get discouraged. The decision loss to Whitaker, who was at the peak of his powers when they fought, was a good case in point. Nelson chased the naturally larger man all over the ring; he just never caught him.

Nelson is a remarkable physical specimen for his age, and despite his prestige and prosperity, he's never grown soft or complacent. Because of his regal status in his homeland, nobody pushes him to train. Nobody has to. Ghana's "King Of Boxing" drives himself so hard in the gym that he frequently falls asleep on the floor after training.

Exactly how much longer Nelson will be able to prolong a career that started with an eight-round decision over Billy Kwame in 1979 is a tricky question. The skeptics figured he was finished way back in '91 after the Fenech draw, and they were *certain* he was washed-up when Leija took the WBC 130-pound belt in '94. And there was *no way* Nelson was going to regain the title from Gabriel Ruelas, who had taken the title from Leija. Wrong! Wrong! Wrong!

Still, if you keep predicting a fighter is going to lose long enough, you're bound to be right eventually. Even so, Nelson has an excellent chance of staying on top a while longer, provided he picks his spots and stays in the 130-pound class. IBF titlist Arturo Gatti is scheduled to defend against Tracy Patterson in September, and should he be successful, a unification match with Nelson would be a natural. And if you think that the ancient African wouldn't have a chance against the young, vicious-hitting Canadian, just think back to the number of shots Gatti soaked up in his title-winning fight with Patterson and his defense against Wilson Rodriguez. Half as many punches from Nelson would have put Gatti in the hospital.

There are also other lucrative options. Prior to the Leija fight, British promoter Frank Warren offered Nelson almost $2-million to fight English sensation Naseem Hamed. But the canny old champ opted instead for a third fight with Leija for far less money. Maybe he figured he couldn't beat the lightning-quick Hamed. Maybe he figured Warren's offer would be even larger after he beat Leija.

When you add it all up, there's really no mystery to Nelson's extraordinary success. He's a man from humble origins who has risen to a place of honor in his society, and he takes his mantle of nobility very serious-

(Continued on page 71)

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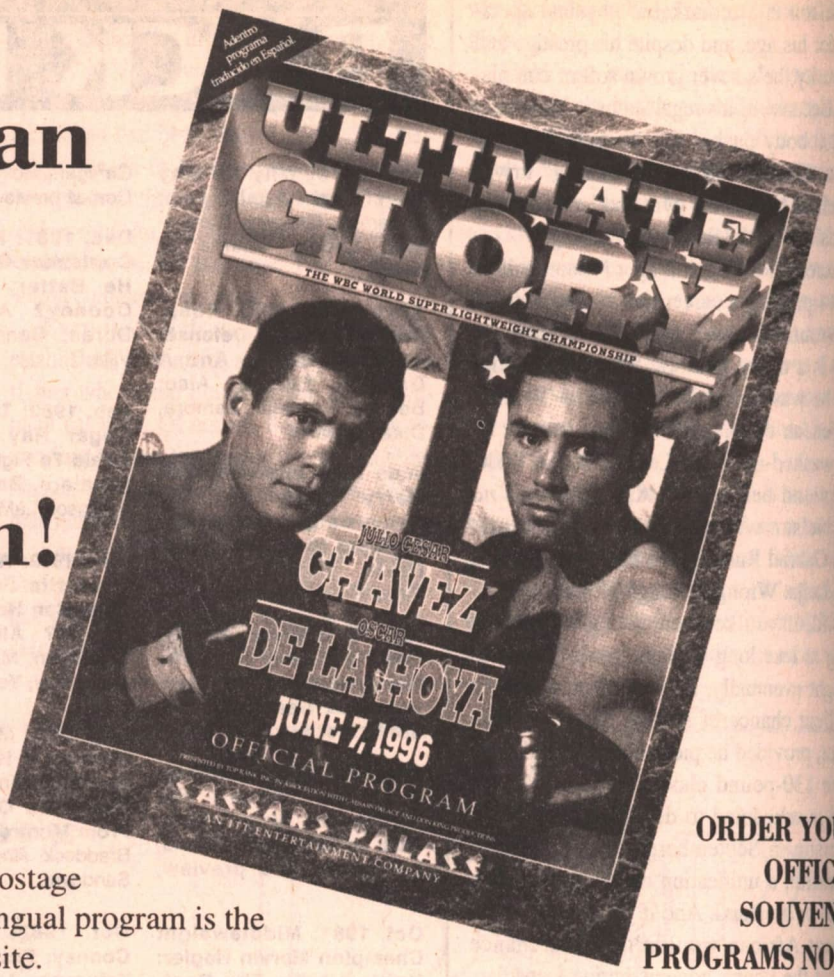

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Nelson-Leija

(Continued from page 69)

ly. He fights for something larger than himself, beyond personal gain, and that gives him an added strength that has, so far, enabled him to surpass all expectations, except his own and those of his people.

Regardless of what the future holds for Nelson, it's time to recognize him for what he is—maybe the finest African fighter of all-time. His only competition for that distinction is Dick Tiger, who held undisputed world titles at both middleweight and light heavyweight. That's pretty good company. Like Boza-Edwards said when asked to articulate Nelson's greatness, "He's a masterpiece." ■

Chavez-De La Hoya

(Continued from page 26)

The heat, everyone agreed, would favor Chavez. But on fight night, the sun dipped below the bleachers about an hour before the main event, and a nightmarish night turned bearable. If Father Time was in The Golden Boy's corner, so was Mother Nature.

Timing? De La Hoya, 139, East Los Angeles, California, was facing a Chavez, 139, Culiacan, Mexico, who might have peaked as much as six years ago. As if the challenger needed a further edge, only one minute into the fight, a jab, or maybe two, cracked the skin over Chavez' left brow. De La Hoya's Plan A (The Professor had also constructed a Plan B, C, and D) was to circle, stay off the ropes, protect against bodypunches by carrying a low guard, and jab, jab, jab. Now he had a target for that dominant left hand.

"I never thought the opening would draw that much blood," said Chavez, who took five stitches.

(After the bout, Chavez revealed that during a sparring session in Lake Tahoe about four weeks before the fight, he had suffered a cut on the same spot. And three days before the fight, he was playing with his three-year-old son, Christian, when the boy's head made contact with his brow. The cut, he said, did not reopen.)

At the start of the second, a portion of the sellout crowd of 15,283 began chanting, "Chavez! Chavez! Chavez!" De La Hoya missed three jabs and a right, then followed a lead right with several additional misses. Chavez waved him in, but given the blood that was freely flowing from the champion's cut, De La Hoya knew that time, and not just timing, was on his side. He stuck to his plan, continuing to spear Chavez with jabs.

De La Hoya, 22-0 (20), came forward during portions of the third, with Chavez, 96-2-1 (81), responding far too meekly for someone who was fighting not only a bigger, faster, and younger foe, but also the clock. Chavez landed a pair of hooks, but De La Hoya quickly answered with a right and a hook. By the round's end, De La Hoya was backing up. Still, Chavez was tentative.

Chavez finally committed to an offensive in the fourth. He effortlessly winged his once-lethal hooks, but by doing so, opened himself up for De La Hoya's crisper, sharper shots. After a hook exploded on Chavez' nose, blood covered his entire face. Bolder by the moment, De La Hoya followed with a big right, a hook to the body, an uppercut, and a left-right. With the fight deteriorating into a carnage, referee Richard Steele (USA) waved it over at the 2:37 mark.

The judges were Daniel Van De Wiele (Belgium), Anek Hongtongkam (Thailand), and Larry O'Connell (England).

"I saw the cut open, but I still kept my composure," said De La Hoya. "One thing about me, I can focus up in that ring. Julio Cesar Chavez is my idol, and he'll always be my idol. But my job is to win fights. Up in that ring, I had no feeling whatsoever for Chavez."

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Timing? For De La Hoya, Chavez was just the beginning. While pound-for-pound leader Roy Jones is forced to seek suitable competition not by boxing in the ring, but by boxing out on the hardwood, De La Hoya, a 5'10" junior welterweight who will eventually fight at junior middleweight or beyond, has Gonzalez, Pernell Whitaker, Kostya Tszyu, and Felix Trinidad to contemplate. *(See "Looking Ahead" on page*

(Continued on page 73)

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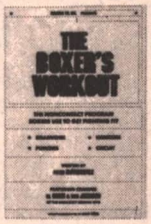

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Chavez-De La Hoya

(Continued from page 71)

90.) For a young star, the capacity to jump divisions is a wonderful thing.

As for Chavez, he's asked Arum for two fights and then a rematch. The promoter agreed to the first part, but was noncommittal regarding De La Hoya-Chavez II. Added The Golden Boy, "If [Chavez] is not happy with what happened tonight, we are happy to give him a rematch. Of course, we have our own plans ... "

"Oscar De La Hoya is not the best fighter I have encountered," said Chavez, who promised at his morning-after press conference not to make excuses, and then proceeded to excuse himself. "He was lucky. If he would've knocked me down, I would've retired right there."

In fact, he got cut before his opponent could do so. Timing? In that sense, Chavez' was almost as good as De La Hoya's. ■

Charlie Powell

(Continued from page 51)

sive end in his third game, a memorable one recalled by quarterback Y.A. Tittle in the hall of famer's memoir, *I Pass:*

"Powell, a rookie end who weighed only 215 pounds, got a starting job that day because injuries had trimmed our roster to 28 available men. During the warmup, line coach Phil Bengston pulled Charlie aside and told him he would open at defensive end.

" 'You only have to remember one thing, Charlie,' Bengston said. 'Just drive in and rush [Detroit quarterback] Bobby Layne as hard and as often as you can.'

" 'Which one is he?' asked Powell, a green kid of only 19.

" 'He'll be the guy throwing the ball,' said Phil. 'That's all you need to know. Go after him!'

"And what a time Charlie gave Layne that day! He was draped around Bobby's neck on almost every play. Layne, one of the game's all-time great passers, didn't complete a pass until the last period. He was black and blue, and sore as hell, when Powell got through with him."

With a successful rookie gridiron season behind him, Powell made his heavyweight boxing debut in March 1953, against Fred Taylor in Hollywood. The result was a four-round draw.

"I never hit a man that hard in my life," Powell recalls. "I hit him on top of the head and broke my hand. I went back to football."

But in 1954, he once again exchanged his cleats for boxing shoes, and in eight months ran up that kayo string that put him so close to a title shot. Rocky was in the audience when Powell fought contender Norkus in San Francisco in October. Working his corner was Joe Perry, the great fullback who was Powell's teammate on the 49ers.

In the first round of the nationally televised bout, Powell floored Norkus at the bell—and again broke his right hand. Norkus rebounded to drop Powell twice in the seventh, and the fight was halted.

"Don't let this stop you," Marciano told

(Continued on page 75)

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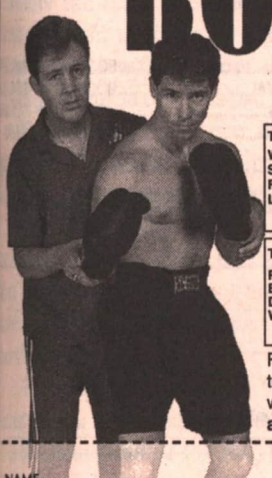

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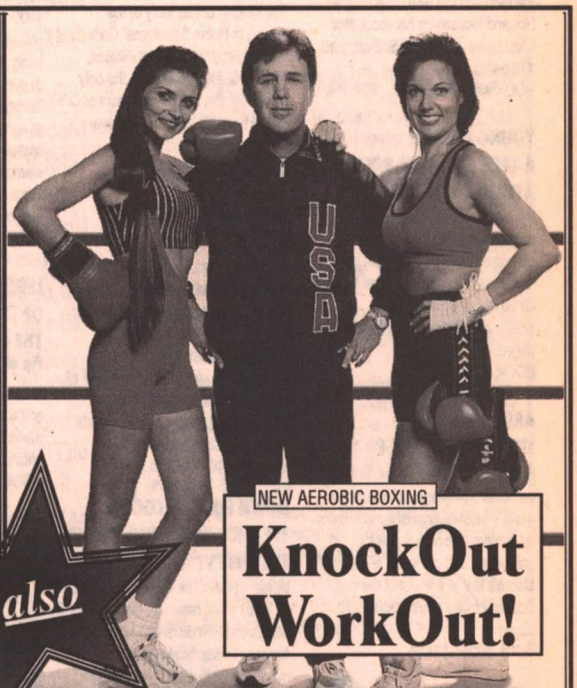

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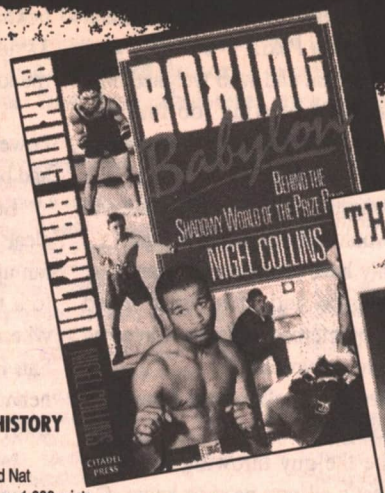

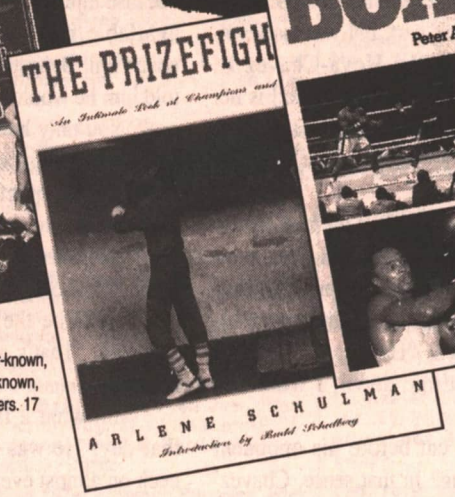

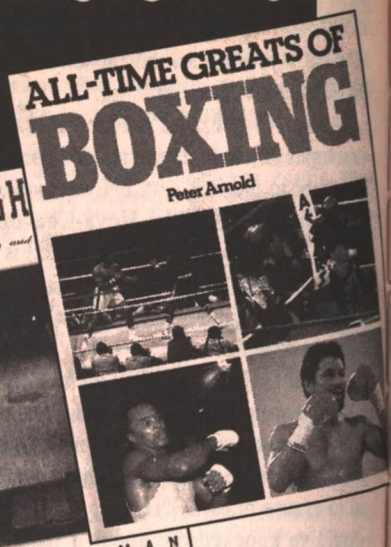

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Charlie Powell

(Continued from page 73)

Powell in his dressing room. "It's only a little thing in the road."

For the next couple of years, Powell did what no other football player-turned-boxer ever did before or has done since: He engaged in both sports. He spent his autumns knocking quarterbacks down with the 49ers, and after that, occasionally found out what they felt like when it happened to him in the ring. After contender Johnny Summerlin stopped him in six rounds in April 1955, recalls Powell, "I pissed blood for about a week [from] the body shots he was giving me."

Which was harder, football or boxing? That's like wondering which is more destructive, stepping in front of a bus or a semi-trailer truck.

"The human head was not meant to be punched," Powell says. "But when you talk about hurting all over, in football, a lot of times three or four months after you play, you'd reach out to pick up a glass of water and you'd feel it in your shoulders."

After Roger Rischer, an intermittent contender in the '50s and '60s, stopped him on cuts in June 1956, Powell played football full-time the next year before mounting another full-scale, full-time assault on the heavyweight ranks in '58. He racked up five big wins without a loss, the last one a revenge decision over Norkus.

Powell's next fight may have been his most impressive. In March 1959, he stopped huge contender Nino Valdes.

"Angelo Dundee worked with me, and told me, 'Make it by the first round because he'll try to get you out quick,'" Powell recalls. "I made it, and started putting shots to the body."

In the eighth round, says Powell, "I hit him with a left hook, and it was like [Luis] Firpo sailing out of the ring [against Jack Dempsey]. I started putting my robe on and he was coming back in, and that scared the hell out of me." But Valdes had run out of downs, and Powell had his biggest victory, and a chance to move into the upper class of the division.

But then came two bad breaks. The first was a literal one, with Powell again breaking his hand. But he went ahead anyway with a fight against highly ranked Roy Harris in Houston.

"I knew he couldn't do much to me," he says. "He slapped me around and won a 10-round decision."

In November 1959, Powell had a nationally televised bout against big Mike DeJohn, another contender, in the latter's hometown of Syracuse, New York. Just the memory of what happened there makes him exclaim, "Oh, terrible!"

After he'd wrapped his hands in the dressing room, Powell laid down for a nap, instructing his handlers to wake him 20 minutes before he was to enter the ring so he could warm up. But he says his rest was shattered when former welterweight and middleweight champion Carmen Basilio, who was seconding DeJohn, burst into his dressing room with local boxing officials and, says Powell, "raised all kinda hell. They made me cut my [hand] bandages off as if I'd loaded up, [even though] the officials had checked and approved them before."

By the time the argument was ended by the call for the main event, there wasn't even time for Powell to rebandage his hands from scratch. He had to put the original ones back on and tape over them, then "rush into the ring ice-cold."

When the fight ended after just 47 seconds of round one, DeJohn had set a record for the quickest kayo on a nationally televised show, and Powell went back to playing football full-time for the Oakland Raiders of the new American Football League. Two years later, he was back in the ring, and in 1963, the defensive end got the call to try and throw a rising young heavyweight from Louisville, Kentucky, for the first loss of his boxing career. The prospect was called Cassius Clay then, and also "The Louisville Lip" because of his poetry recitations and obnoxious habit of predicting the round in which he would stop his opponents.

"Powell must fall in three!" Clay said so loudly at the weigh-in that Powell grabbed his opponent's shirt and suggested menacingly that he needed to put a sock in his mouth. For the first time in memory, Clay actually did shut up. But it was Powell's only advantage that day over the man who would indeed stop him in three rounds and go on, a year later, to become heavyweight champion and Muhammad Ali.

(Continued on page 77)

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FIGHTERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Charlie Powell

(Continued from page 75)

"I see Ali when he's out here," says Powell. "We get together and clown around. He tells me I hit him with a shot to the body, and he says he'd never been hit that hard before."

Powell never fought Sonny Liston, but he worked with the glowering champion when Liston was getting ready to fight Ali, and they became good friends, but only after a rocky start.

"At first, he'd give you the frown," Powell says. "I told him, 'Look, man, I'm here to help you. Now goddammit, if you don't want me to help you, I'll go.'

"We got along just fine [after that]," adds Powell, who, like many others, has doubts about the official drug overdose verdict rendered after Liston's death in 1970.

"I'd go out with him and he'd drink 100-proof vodka and orange juice," he recalls. "S___, he didn't do no dope. The guy was not a bad person. I thought he was a helluva guy."

Powell shares the same sentiments for Floyd Patterson, who knocked him out in their 1964 bout, and whom Powell calls "a class act." In fact, Powell has nothing bad to say about anyone he fought, even DeJohn, whose close friend he became after that Syracuse blitz. Nor does he have anything bad to say about anything that happened to him in boxing.

"The only way you learn is to live it," he says. "When it don't work out, you got a lot of time to sit all alone and start evaluating it. It was a learning process."

Sure, a shot at Marciano would've been nice. But, says Powell, "a lot of times I think, *They'd have took all the money and you'd have ended up punch-drunk down on Fifth Street.* Everything works out for the best."

Retired last year from his post-boxing career in the aerospace industry, and champing at the bit to get active again after successful prostate cancer surgery, the only thing Powell isn't sure about is which way he'd go if he woke up 19 years old again and had to choose between careers bordered by goal posts or four ropes.

"The money they're giving these football players now, I'd have to play football," he says at first. A moment later, however, the gridiron star who came closest to keeking a touchdown in the ring adds, "But then, with the level of boxing today, hell, I'd probably want to do the same damned thing." ■

Pete Ehrmann, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is based in West Allis, Wisconsin.

Doug Jones

(Continued from page 53)

you off. He was a helluva counterpuncher. If you weren't careful, he'd knock your brains out. He had a lot of experience, a consummate pro.

"That fight could have gone either way. That was a tough fight. I felt I was there all the way. He never hurt me. He could be hard to hit, but I made a good account of myself with one of the best fighters in the world. The fight was in Philadelphia, and that may have had something to do with it. Favoritism and all kinds of things run through your mind. It happens. But the only way you'd really know is if God came down and told you."

•Jones met **Cassius Clay** on March 13, 1963, at Madison Square Garden. It was the first time in the history of the Garden that a fight had been sold out as much as two days before the event. It was two fights before Clay would win the heavyweight title and change his name to Muhammad Ali. The 21-year-old Clay was 17-0, and had already defeated Archie Moore and Billy Daniels. Jones, 26, was 21-1-3. He weighed 188 to Clay's 202½.

"The Louisville Lip" had won nine straight by knockout, often predicting his round of victory. For Jones, Clay predicted a fourth-round kayo. When Jones ended his opponent's streak of successful predictions by lasting through that stanza, the Garden crowd began booing and taunting Clay. The night would end with Jones nearly ending his winning streak as well.

Jones staggered Clay with a right hand in the opening seconds and stalked him for the remainder of the 10 rounds. Boxing on his toes, Clay needed to win the final two rounds. He managed to do so, and was awarded a controversial unanimous decision (scores, by rounds, of 8-1-1 and 5-4-1 (twice). The crowd began chanting "fix" after the decision was read.

The bout was named Fight of the Year by THE RING for 1963.

(Continued on page 78)

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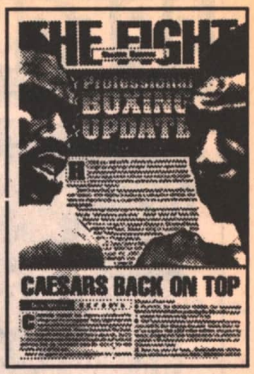

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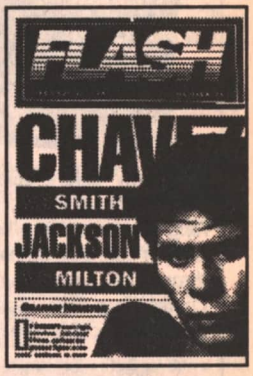

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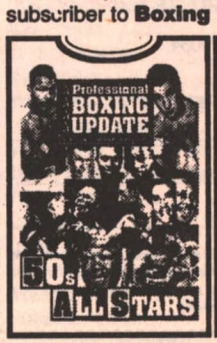

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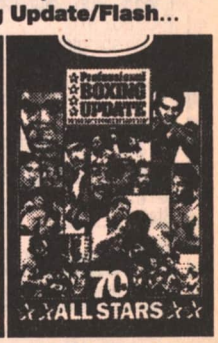

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Doug Jones

(Continued from page 77)

"I had never seen him fight before," said Jones, "and it didn't matter because I just look at a guy and know what I can do with him. I don't go into a fight with fear. I new that Ali was big with his predictions. But I thought it was comical. I didn't think anyone could predict a round on me.

"[Clay's camp] thought Doug Jones was soft. They thought Ali would have another notch after this fight—a big notch. I wasn't about to let him beat me. That was my easiest fight. I wish all my fights were like that. They say he was moving, I call it running. The way I was moving, slipping, and sliding, I call that boxing. The man was constantly running. When you are running all the time, you shouldn't be in the fight game. I had to be alert. I had to still be careful because he was a big man. I didn't find anything impressive about him. His hands were fast, but they weren't fast enough to do anything to me.

"I think maybe they bought the fight for him. A blind man could see who won that fight. There was no question about it, I won. But to know that he didn't make his prediction come true against me, that felt pretty good."

•Jones was scheduled to meet Zora Folley in a rematch at Madison Square Garden on October 20, 1962. Folley pulled out with a viral infection, and **Bob Foster** agreed to take his place.

Foster, 23, had won all 13 of his previous starts. Jones, 20-3-1, was a seasoned pro, and three fights removed from challenging for the title. Jones weighed 182, and Foster 174.

A cross dropped Foster for a count of nine in the opening session. The young light heavyweight regrouped and battled Jones evenly in the middle rounds. But Foster absorbed a sound beating in round seven and received a visit from the ringside physician before the eighth. The bout was stopped 23 seconds into that stanza, after Jones sent Foster reeling across the ring with a straight right.

"We fought once before in the amateurs because we were both in the Air Force," recalled Jones. "I didn't really know him because we weren't stationed at the same base. I beat him, and as a pro I beat him again. It never came across my mind that we would fight again as pros, because I was fighting mostly heavyweights and he stayed at light heavyweight.

"I think he took that fight as a substitute. But I don't accept that as an excuse. When you come into a fight, you better be in shape. Why take it if you are not? Especially if it's against a top contender.

"Foster was a good fighter, a tall and rangy type of guy. He just couldn't beat me. I had him hurt right away, and that was pretty much it. Certain fighters you just get the best of. I had a little too much for him. I was too strong. But if someone said he would be a champion someday, I could see that. That didn't surprise me."

•Jones fought **Joe Frazier** on February 21, 1967, at the Arena in Philadelphia. Frazier, 23, was 13-0. Only Oscar Bonavena had gone the distance with him. The fight was six days before Jones' 30th birthday. He'd be active for only another year. Jones weighed 188 to Frazier's 205.

In one postfight report, Frazier's camp said they had viewed Jones as a trialhorse and expected a brief evening. As it turned out, the future heavyweight champion caught Jones with his vaunted left hook and scored a knockout at 2:36 of the sixth round.

"I had no business losing that fight," said Jones. "I just don't speak about it much. Every time I think about it, I get angry. I made a good account of myself considering the circumstances. But I don't talk about it. He packed a good punch, but he got lucky."

Hackmer offered more insight on the fight, as well as Jones' disgust with the event. "He got nailed with a tremendous left hook," the trainer said. "Doug was disgusted with the fight game at that point of his career and wasn't 100 percent focused. He was tired of seeing other people get title shots or consistently getting fights at the Garden. It was near the end of his career. But Frazier wouldn't have gone two rounds with Doug when he was in his prime."

The Best of the Best

"The fastest one I fought was Harold Johnson. He was a smart boxer and he had a lot of experience. He knew his way around the ring. He had the most talent, more than Ali. The strongest one I fought was Von Clay. He was a punching son of a gun. I fought the guy three times and it was do-or-die." ■

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New Faces

(Continued from page 57)

strategies to deal with his fighters' ring opponents, not some damn palm tree. He doesn't even want to think about it anymore.

Beristain, esteemed as one of the best and most demanding trainers anywhere, wants to emphasize the positive. His fighter's career is back on track, and Marquez, a skilled boxer with power in both hands, is doing the kinds of things that make trainers and fans smile.

Right now, says John Beyrooty, publicist for Forum Boxing, Marquez is arguably the most solid prospect out of Mexico. He's been fighting exclusively in the United States since December 1994, mostly at the Great Western Forum.

Everything is happening about two years behind schedule, but it's happening. Three or four more fights, Beristain figures, and Marquez will be ready for a shot at a major title.

"We want to do this with both feet on the ground," Beristain says through an interpreter. "From there, we take only one step at a time." Just because time was lost, he won't try to speed up the natural cycle of his fighter's ring education and experience.

Marquez' father, Rafael Marquez, fought as a bantamweight, and he and Beristain have been pals for years. Beristain helped out with the training when Rafael's teenage son Juan slipped on his father's old gloves and started tearing up the amateur flyweight division. Marquez' amateur record: 35-1.

Marquez' only loss as a pro came by disqualification in his debut, a bout in Mexico City against Javier Duran in May 1993. In the first round, he fell prey to the Mexican headbutt rule stipulating that when one fighter cannot continue after a butt, even if it was accidental, the other fighter is disqualified.

Since that inauspicious beginning, Marquez has won 15 straight. His most significant victory came at the Forum in November 1995, vs. 1992 U.S. Olympian Julian Wheeler. It was the kind of matchup fans rarely get to see, a make-or-break contest between rising stars. Through nine rounds, it was close, with Wheeler ahead on two of the three cards.

In the 10th, Marquez rocked Wheeler with a combination, putting him in serious trouble. Wheeler clinched. Then he clinched again. And again. When, despite several warnings, he refused to stop holding, the bout was stopped. Had Wheeler fought on, Marquez likely would have stopped him.

Like so many fighters who are particularly talented, Marquez walked right through many of his early opponents. As he has stepped up in class, he remains formidable, although he looks better against straight-ahead fighters than tricky boxers like Wheeler.

Standing 5'6", Marquez features an educated left hook, a strong right, and excellent balance. "I want him to use more lateral movement," says the watchful Beristain.

In an April outing at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, Marquez gave fans their money's worth in taking on former WBA bantamweight champion Julio Gervacio, a Dominican who fights out of Puerto Rico. Gervacio came straight at Marquez from the start, but time after time it was Marquez who got off with a variety of combinations. Meanwhile, Gervacio waited for chances that never came.

At the end of the fourth round, Gervacio went down from a flurry that included a solid hook. He beat the count, but was a confused, hurt fighter. He needed a miracle, and it never came.

In the ensuing rounds, while Gervacio tired, Marquez picked it up, landing more frequently and loading up more. That's a typical Marquez strategy; when the other guy is looking to rest, Marquez raises the stakes. As Gervacio was being punished along the ropes in the seventh, referee Dr. James Jen-Kin was clearly ready to stop it, but the bell intervened.

In the eighth, Gervacio came in with a straight right. For what it was worth, it landed. But Marquez caught him with a left uppercut and straight right that put Gervacio flat on his back. Jen-Kin waved it off 35 seconds into the round. As it turned out, Marquez had won every round.

What could be intriguing in Marquez' future is just what title he and his handlers shoot for. Beristain says he may take Marquez down to 122 pounds. If Marquez retains his power and endurance, he will be even more dangerous at junior featherweight. Waiting there is Mexico's number-one sensation, Marco Antonio Barrera, the greatest threat to Marquez since that damn palm tree. ■

Ivan G. Goldman is The Ring's West Coast correspondent.

Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott

Sometimes I ask Steve Farhood if he would like to see a column with a particular slant, something that might complement another article in the issue. This month, he threw me a curve. "How about some oddball stuff, memorabilia that doesn't really fit into the standard categories?" he suggested. At first, I thought, *Huh?* Then it hit me: *Oddball stuff? Boxing collectors? You bet.*

Here are some of the most unusual. Many are of a personal nature, and not highly prized by all collectors. But if Jackie Kennedy's personal items brought such attention, not to mention big bucks …

Here's one you wouldn't have found in Jackie O's catalog: Sonny Liston's protective cup. No snickering out there; this was one I just had to get out of the way. This was a bona fide item that sold at a sports auction about eight years ago. I cannot imagine what the buyer did with it. But we can assume that if the guy is married, it is definitely not framed and sitting over his mantle, right under a photo of Sonny.

There there's Jack Dempsey's suit jacket. The label said it was made expressly for Dempsey. I saw this one sold at the very first collector's show at the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York. I would have bought it, but it was too small in the shoulders. Again, how do you display a piece like that? Robes and trunks look good in shadowbox frames, but a suit?

How about a tuxedo? I know a guy who was given the tux worn by Larry Holmes when he appeared on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. Holmes gave it to him personally. How about Primo Carnera's tuxedo? THE RING Publisher Stanley Weston owns that one and reports that it's big enough to host the annual WBA convention.

One of my favorites belongs to THE RING and sits on loan in Canastota under a glass cube. The item is Bob Fitzsimmons' top hat. THE RING once had an extensive collection of fighters' pocket-watches, but it was stolen. The watches have not, to my knowledge, resurfaced in the hobby.

I had a chance to buy a set of monogrammed hairbrushes once owned by John L. Sullivan. The owner wanted too much. Too bad; the brushes would have looked nice in a display case. He said they still had hair in them.

I was also offered a celluloid collar worn by the great John L., but as I remember, it wasn't signed. Any personal items of Sullivan's would bring big money today, but only with near-100 percent provenance.

Tyson stuff has been coming around. The warranty book for one of his cars, which was signed, has been sold a couple of times. Also, his first driver's license. I have seen George Foreman's draft card sold, as well as the Social Security card and military dog tag of Jimmy Braddock.

One item I dearly regret having missed out on was a monogrammed suitcase owned by Joe Louis. I have a pretty large Louis program collection, and what better item to store the books in, along with my Louis tickets and photos? Oh, well.

There were lots of personal effects sold at the Superior Gallery auction some time back, but they all suffered by not having provenance. There was Jack Johnson's opera cape, Jim Corbett's cane, and the small loving cup given to Harry Greb in 1919. Legit? Who knows.

Speaking of "The Pittsburgh Windmill," there was a hip flask that once belonged to Greb. It had his name etched in it. I know where it came from, and I tend to think it was for real. Assuming it was, I'd rate it the coolest oddball item I've ever seen.

Don Scott is editor and publisher of ***Boxing Collectors' News*** *and may be contacted through* THE RING.

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the IBF ratings were compiled as of April 1996, WBC ratings were compiled as of June 1996, and WBA ratings were compiled as of May 1996.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike Tyson (USA)	C	–	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Lennox Lewis (GB)	1	4	6
Oliver McCall (USA)	2	3	2
Frank Bruno (GB)	3	–	–
Ray Mercer (USA)	4	–	–
Larry Donald (USA)	5	–	–
Jeremy Williams (USA)	6	12	–
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	7	11	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	8	–	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	9	8	8
Orlin Norris (USA)	10	2	7
Henry Akinwande (GB)	–	1	4
Vaughn Bean (USA)	15	5	5
Alexandr Zolkin (RUS)	–	6	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	7	–
Crawford Grimsley (USA)	22	9	–
James Thunder (NZ)	21	10	–
Francois Botha (SA)	–	–	1
Corrie Sanders (SA)	12	–	3
Buster Mathis Jr. (USA)	24	–	9
Obed Sullivan (USA)	19	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	1	2	3
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	2	6	–
Robert Daniels (USA)	3	3	5
Akim Tafer (FRA)	4	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	5	–	8
David Izeqwire (NIG)	6	–	7
Patrice Aouissi (FRA)	7	5	–
Gary Ballard (SA)	8	–	–
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	9	–	4
Carl Thompson (GB)	10	–	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	1	1
Torsten May (GER)	–	4	2
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	18	7	–
John McClain (USA)	13	8	–
Tony LaRosa (USA)	–	9	–
Brian Laspada (USA)	–	10	12
Uriah Grant (USA)	25	–	6
Chris Okoh (GB)	11	–	9
Terry McGroom (USA)	19	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Montell Griffin (USA)	1	3	2
Mike McCallum (USA)	2	5	4
Crawford Ashley (GB)	3	–	–
William Guthrie (USA)	4	2	1
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	5	1	–
Nicky Piper (GB)	6	–	–
Maurice Core (GB)	7	–	–
Merqui Sosa (DR)	8	–	–
Lincoln Carter (USA)	9	–	–
Dirk Walleyn (BEL)	10	–	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	4	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	6	7
Duran Williams (USA)	–	7	5
Anthony Begini (NZ)	–	8	–
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	9	–
Gary Ballard (SA)	–	10	11
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	–	3
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	–	–	6
Richard Hall (USA)	25	–	8
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	–	–	9
Stephan Anghern (SWI)	–	11	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Thulane Malinga (SA)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	–	–
Luciano Torres (BRA)	2	2	11
Bryant Brannon (USA)	3	6	1
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	4	8	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	5	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	6	–	–
Joe Calzaghe (GB)	7	–	–
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	8	–	9
Willie Quinn (GB)	9	–	–
Steve Little (USA)	10	5	5
Tim Littles (USA)	–	1	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	–	3	7
Nigel Benn (GB)	–	4	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	7	–
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	9	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	26	10	–
Reginaldo Andrade (BRA)	–	–	2
Jean-Claude M'biye (FRA)	–	–	3
Charles Brewer (USA)	13	–	4
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	–	6
Mark Delaney (GB)	16	–	8
Frank Rhodes (USA)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Richie Woodhall (GB)	1	9	9
Otis Grant (CAN)	2	6	–
Quincy Taylor (USA)	3	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	4	4	–
John David Jackson (USA)	5	2	2
Julian Jackson (USA)	6	–	–
Robert Allen (USA)	7	–	3
Robert McCracken (GB)	8	–	4
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	9	–	–
Aaron Davis (USA)	10	10	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	1	1
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	3	–
Chongmo Kim (KOR)	–	5	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	12	7	–
Teymuraz Kikelidze (RUS)	–	8	–
Lloyd Bryan (USA)	–	–	5
Alex Rios (USA)	–	–	6
Chris Pyatt (GB)	–	–	7
Joe Lipsey (USA)	–	–	8
Juan Carlos Viloria (COL)	24	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	C
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	1	5	6
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	2	–	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	3	8	1
Ahmed Dottuev (BALK)	4	–	–
David Ciarlante (ITA)	5	–	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	6	2	2
Ernie Artango (AUSTRL)	7	–	–
Faouzi Hattab (FRA)	8	–	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	9	–	7
Luis Santana (DR)	10	–	–
Winky Wright (USA)	–	1	3
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	3	–
Alejandro Ugueto (VEN)	–	4	–
Johnson Tshuma (SA)	–	6	–
Giovanni Pretorious (SA)	–	7	4
Julio Cesar Green (USA)	–	9	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	23	10	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	5
Darrin Morris (USA)	–	–	8
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	9
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	1	3	1
Derrell Coley (USA)	2	4	6
Gary Jacobs (GB)	3	9	3
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	4	5	4
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	5	12	12
Ralph Jones (USA)	6	–	–
James Page (USA)	7	–	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	8	2	–
Jose Luis Navarro (SPA)	9	–	–
Jake Rodriguez (PR)	10	–	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	1	2
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	–	6	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	22	7	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	13	8	7
Jufrison Pontoh (RUS)	–	10	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	–	5

Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	27	–	8
Jorge Alvez (ARG)	–	–	9
Ray Lovato (USA)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Juan Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	1	–	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	2	1	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	3	–	–
Charles Murray (USA)	4	7	7
Freddie Ladd (USA)	5	–	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	6	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	7	–	9
David Kamau (USA)	8	4	3
Jose Barbosa (VEN)	9	5	–
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	10	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	2	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	3	2
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	6	1
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	–	8	–
Hiromu Kuwata (JAP)	17	9	–
Ross Hale (GB)	29	10	6
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	4
Michele Piccirillo (ITA)	15	–	5
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	8
Ralph Jones (USA)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	C	–	4
Ormbek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Philip Holiday (SA)	–	–	C
Steve Johnston (USA)	1	5	7
Shane Mosley (USA)	2	11	–
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	3	–	–
Angel Mona (FRA)	4	6	12
Lamar Murphy (USA)	5	–	–
Ivan Robinson (USA)	6	7	1
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	7	3	–
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	8	–	–
David Dodi Tetteh (GHA)	9	9	–
Manuel Fernandez (FRA)	10	–	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	1	10
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	2	2
Raul H. Balbi (ARG)	–	4	–
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	–	8	–
Carlos Fernandez (PORT)	–	10	–
Miguel Julio (COL)	–	–	3
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	30	–	5
John Lark (USA)	–	–	6
Joel Perez (USA)	–	–	8
Hector Tejeda (ARG)	–	–	9

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	1	2	6
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	2	–	–
Roberto Garcia (USA)	3	6	2
Ulrich Johnson (TRIN)	4	7	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	5	–	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	6	3	8
Pedro Gutierrez (ARG)	7	–	–
Tracy Patterson (USA)	8	–	1
James Leija (USA)	9	–	–
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	10	–	3
Orlando Soto (PAN)	–	1	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	14	5	9
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	8	–
Masuaki Takeda (JAP)	–	9	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	29	10	–
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	–	–	4
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	5
Cliff Samardin (AUSTRL)	21	–	7
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinoza (PHIL)	C	–	–
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	10	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	2	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	3	–	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	4	–	–
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	5	2	–
Billy Hardy (GB)	6	6	5
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	7	–	1
Yong Woon Park (KOR)	8	–	–
David Santos (USA)	9	7	4
Stefano Zoff (ITA)	10	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	1	8
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	–	3	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	12	4	–
Ilham Lahia (INDO)	–	5	–
Jun Gorres (PHIL)	–	8	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	–	9	7
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	2
Orlando Soto (PAN)	–	–	3
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	6
November Ntshingila (AUSTRL)	–	–	9
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Erik Morales (MEX)	1	4	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	2	–	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	3	–	–
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	4	7	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	5	1	6
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	6	–	–
Enrique Jupiter (MEX)	7	–	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	8	8	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	9	12	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	10	5	2
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	2	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	3	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	13	6	9
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	–	9	–
Mike Garcia (USA)	–	10	–
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	1
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	3
Daniel Alicer (PR)	–	–	4
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	15	–	5
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	7
Aristead Clayton (USA)	28	–	8
Angel Chacon (PR)	23	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	C	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	1	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	2	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	3	–	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	4	–	–
In Jin Chi (KOR)	5	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	6	7	4
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	7	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	8	–	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	9	–	–
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	10	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	1	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	2	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	3	–
John Armour (GB)	–	4	3
Angel Chacon (PR)	–	5	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	6	–
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	20	8	–
Tim Austin (USA)	18	9	1
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	–	10	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	2
Ancee Gedeon (USA)	–	–	5
Torsak Pongsopha (THAI)	–	–	6
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	7
Sergio Reyes (USA)	–	–	8
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	9
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	21	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	–	C	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	–	–	C
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	1	6	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	2	–	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	3	5	–
Hipolito Saucedo (USA)	4	–	–
Cecilio Espino (USA)	5	–	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	6	7	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	7	1	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	8	11	–
Domingo Sosa (DR)	9	–	–
Basilio Morales (MEX)	10	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	30	2	–
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	–	3	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	4	2
Jai Chin Lim (KOR)	11	8	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	–	9	–
Jose Alonso Moreno (MEX)	26	10	–
Jaji Sibali (SA)	18	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	3
Andy Agosto (PR)	22	–	4
Jose Diaz (USA)	–	–	5
Ricky Matulessi (INDO)	–	–	6
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	23	–	7
Polito Saucedo (USA)	–	–	8
Orlando Tobon (COL)	–	–	9
Cesar Singo (EQU)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	5	11
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	2	–	3
Daniel Ward (SA)	3	2	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	4	4	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	5	–	12
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	6	–	–
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	7	–	–
Salvatore Fanni (ITA)	8	–	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	9	–	–
Takato Toguchi (JAP)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	1	5
Leo Gamez (VEN)	16	3	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	25	6	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	7	–
Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)	14	8	–
Takashi Ohba (JAP)	18	9	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	10	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	1
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	11	2
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	–	4
Robbie Regan (GB)	–	–	6
Luigi Camputaro (ITA)	12	–	7
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	8
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	9
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	C	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	–	–	C
Chiquita Gonzalez (MEX)	1	–	4
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	2	4	6
Phanieng Sasiprabha-Poontarat (THAI)	3	10	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	4	8	12
Yamil Caraballo (COL)	5	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	6	–	–
Antonio Perez (MEX)	7	–	–
Luis Doria (COL)	8	–	10
Ric Magramo (PHIL)	9	–	–
Ali Galvez (CHILE)	10	–	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	1	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	2	–
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	3	–
Sinn Ploenchit (THAI)	–	5	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	6	–
Jesus Chong (MEX)	–	7	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	26	9	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	29	–	1
Eric Griffin (USA)	11	–	2
P.S. Wonjongkam (THAI)	–	–	3
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	5
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	–	–	7
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	8
James Wanene (KEN)	–	–	9

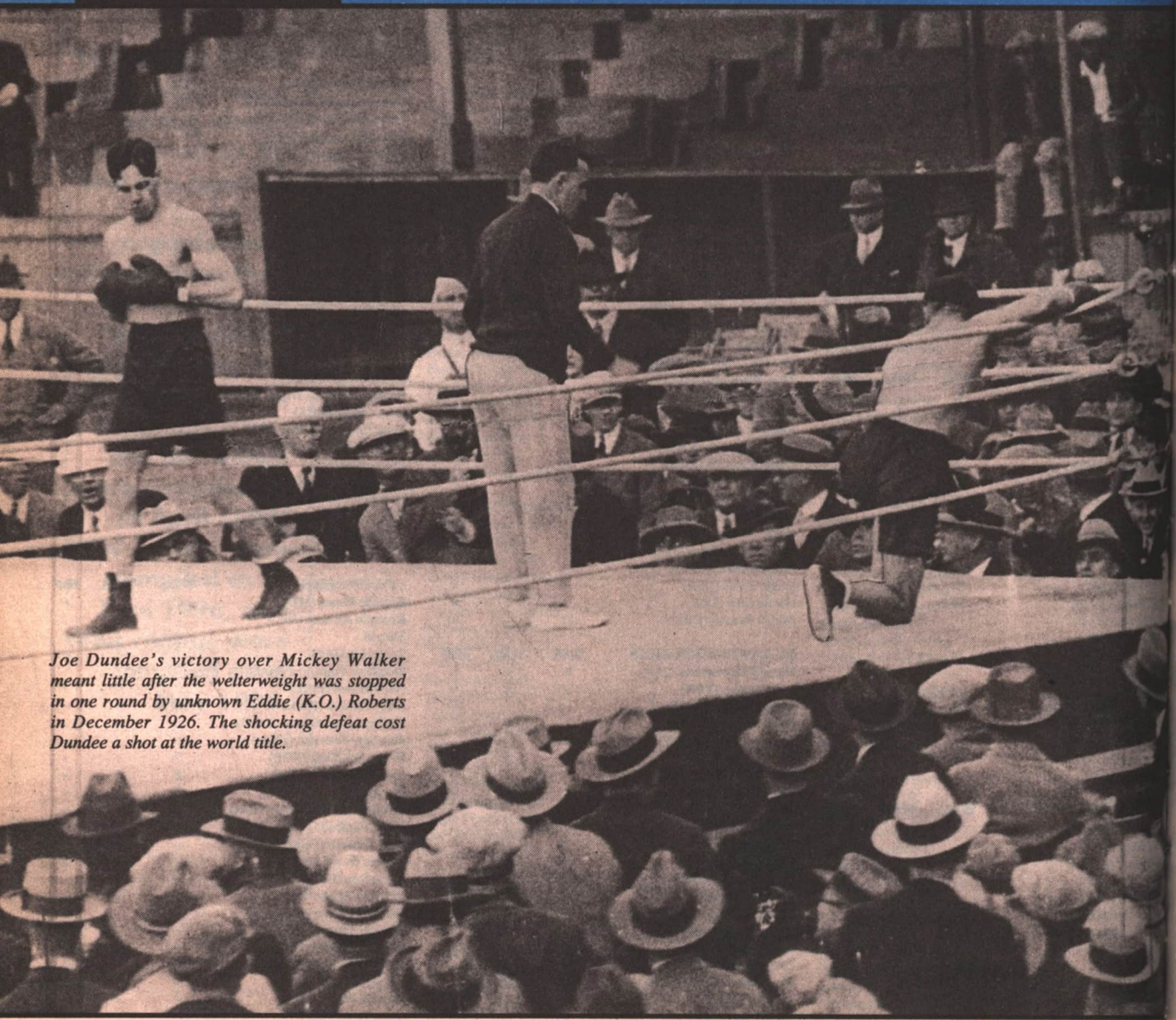
STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	3	4
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	2	2	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	10	7
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	4	4	–
Pichitnoi Chor Siriwat (THAI)	5	–	–
Sinn Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	6	–	–
Hyung Sok Kang (KOR)	7	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	8	1	–
Morgan Ndumo (SA)	9	–	–
Surachai Saebcmorakot (THAI)	10	–	–
Yamil Caraballo (COL)	–	5	–
Noel Tunacao (INDO)	–	6	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	–	7	5
Kenta Sato (PHIL)	–	8	–
Rhindile Ngingi (SA)	–	9	–
Ratanapol Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	1
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	–	–	2
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	12	3
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	27	–	6
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	8
Antonio Perez (MEX)	–	–	9
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

From THE RING, November 1964

TO FIGHT, OR SIT TIGHT?

Jones, Joe Dundee, Baksi, and Hamas all made costly blunders when they took on interim matches



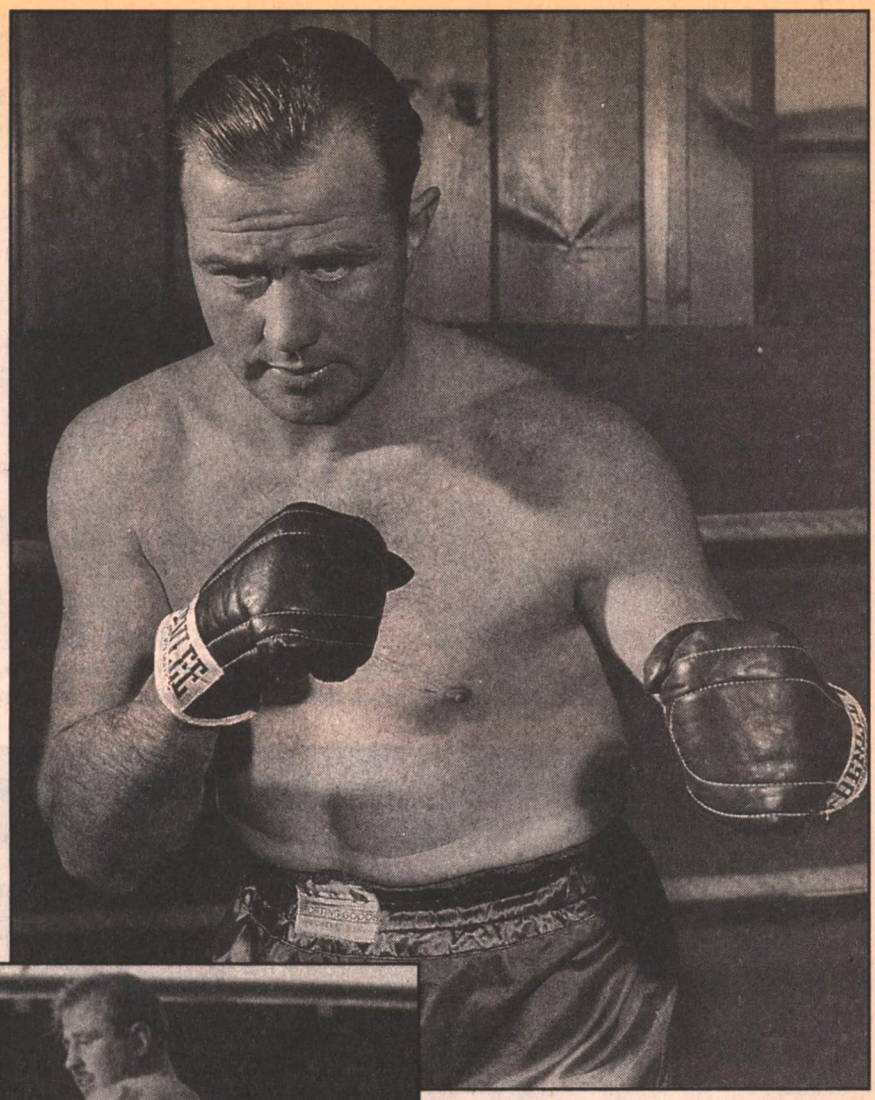
Joe Dundee's victory over Mickey Walker meant little after the welterweight was stopped in one round by unknown Eddie (K.O.) Roberts in December 1926. The shocking defeat cost Dundee a shot at the world title.

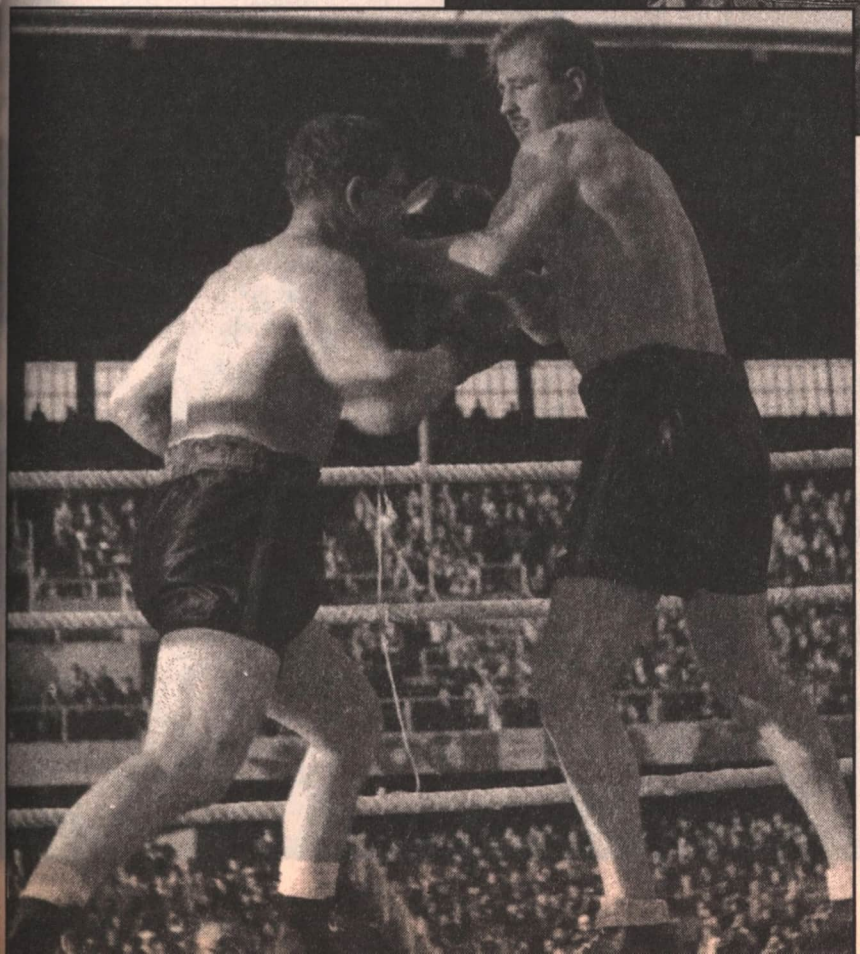
By Ted Carroll

Had there been a Fighter of the Year award in 1926, Baltimore's Joe Dundee, coming into the final month of December, would have been a contender, even in a year marked by Gene Tunney's epic dethroning of the mighty Dempsey.

With much fanfare, the new Madison Square Garden had opened its doors to boxing on December 11, 1925, with Jack Delaney meeting Paul Berlenbach. In the ensuing months of its first boxing season, all the stars of the era performed there, but by the time the circus was ready to move in, by unanimous acclaim the outstanding mittman of its initial season had been Joe Dundee.

Matchmaker Jess McMahon, desperately trying to find someone willing to face Jack McVey, a feared welterweight, had finally come up with Dundee. Given little chance against the shifty, hard-hitting Harlem boxer, Dundee responded with a sensational showing that made him a Garden favorite overnight. He showed his victory over McVey was no fluke by sweeping aside six capable welterweights in succession—Joe Simonich, Jimmy Jones, Tommy Freeman, George Levine, and Willie Harmon.





Sweden's Olle Tandberg (above) was virtually unknown before his July 1947 clash with top-rated heavyweight Joe Baksi in Stockholm. When Tandberg won a sloppy decision, Baksi lost his turn at world champion Joe Louis.

Mickey Walker, who had dropped his welterweight title to Pete Latzo on May 20, 1926, was all that stood between the Marylander and a shot at the crown. When Dundee stopped Walker in eight rounds on June 24, his chance at the championship was assured.

After a summer layoff, Dundee was back in action in the fall of 1926, with wins over Eddie Burnbrook and the highly rated Jack Zivic. Then Joe decided to take a little Coast vacation before signing for the title match with Latzo.

Dundee's manager, wily Max Waxman, could see no harm in combining a little business with pleasure while out West, and

with the idea of covering expenses, took a match with an "unknown" fighter from the Northwest, one Eddie "K.O." Roberts, unheedful of the dangers inherent in the K.O. connotation.

On December 4, 1926, Dundee, leading contender for welterweight honors and standout of the first seasonal program of the new Madison Square Garden, met the obscure Eddie Roberts in San Francisco.

Fight fans throughout the country couldn't believe their eyes the following morning when they awoke to read that the Western "nobody" had knocked out the Eastern wonder in a round!

All this happened many years ago, and today, except to ring historians, the first Dundee-Roberts match is just a line in the record book. But it was one of the great shockers of the time, and for years thereafter, barnstorming top-liners exercised added caution in accepting opponents.

"Remember what happened to Joe Dundee" became a managerial maxim, and a warning.

Among those who should have harkened back to this bit of half-forgotten fight history are the directors of the erstwhile number-one heavyweight contender Doug Jones, who, fearful of having ring rust cover their charge, signed for a Garden match last month.

When original opponent Tony Alongi turned up injured, they found themselves facing a sturdier rival in Billy Daniels, who had proved a difficult proposition for Jones a year previous. At the conclusion of the Garden match on August 14, Doug was no longer number-one challenger for Cassius Clay's title. A 5-1 favorite going into the ring, he blew a split decision.

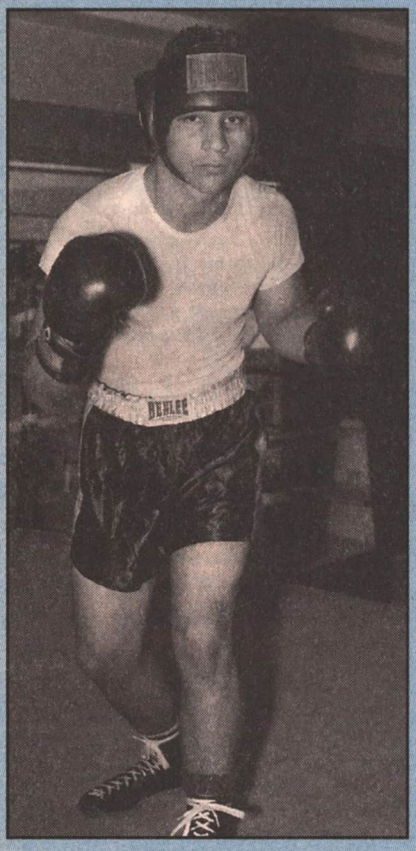
Dundee came back from his startling reverse to win the welterweight title. This proves that such an unexpected setback doesn't necessarily mean complete disaster. But it does show that with a title match in the offing, or even in prospect, a policy of watchful waiting most often is the wisest course.

No fighter in history should second this motion more vigorously than rugged Joe Baksi, bear-like heavyweight contender of the post-World War II period.

In 1947, Baksi found himself in the enviable spot of being challenged by champion Joe Louis by way of promoter Uncle Mike Jacobs. Baksi boasted two impressive wins, against Britishers Freddie Mills and Bruce Woodcock. The rollicking, congenial Baksi, having himself a fine time as the toast of the British sporting public, saw no reason for rushing back to the U.S. to sign the awaiting contracts for a big title match.

His good timing might have been harmless enough had he not been propositioned

THE RING RATINGS, *November 1964*



Willie Pastrano

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Cassius Clay, Louisville, KY

1. **Sonny Liston**, Denver, CO
2. **Floyd Patterson**, Scarsdale, NY
3. **Ernest Terrell**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Cleveland Williams**, Houston, TX
5. **Doug Jones**, New York, NY
6. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
7. **Eddie Machen**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Karl Mildenberger**, Germany
9. **George Chuvalo**, Canada
10. **Billy Daniels**, New York, NY

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Willie Pastrano, Miami, FL

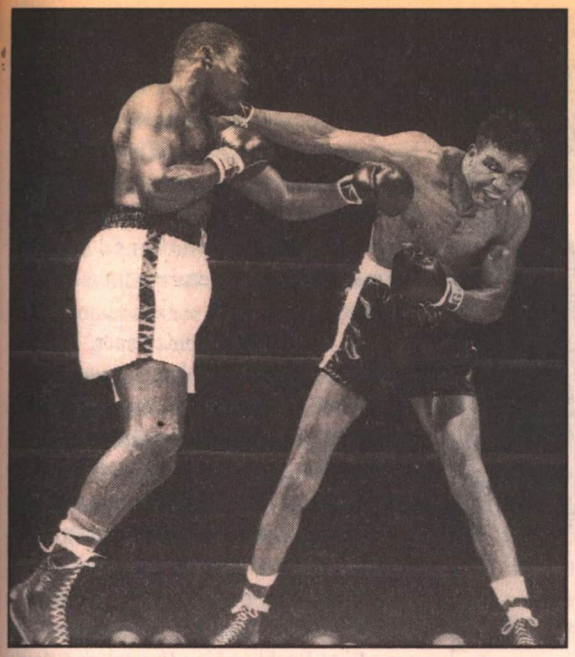
1. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Gregorio Peralta**, Argentina
3. **Bobo Olson**, Honolulu, HI
4. **Eddie Cotton**, Seattle, WA
5. **Wayne Thornton**, Fresno, CA
6. **Mauro Mina**, Peru
7. **Giulio Rinaldi**, Italy
8. **Johnny Persol**, New York, NY
9. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany
10. **Terry Downes**, England

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joey Giardello, Cherry Hill, NJ

1. **Dick Tiger**, Nigeria
2. **Joey Archer**, New York, NY
3. **Rubin Carter**, Passaic, NJ
4. **Laszlo Papp**, Hungary
5. **Sandro Mazzinghi**, Italy
6. **Jose Torres**, Puerto Rico
7. **Nino Benvenuti**, Italy
8. **Joe Gonzalez**, New York, NY
9. **Luis Folledo**, Spain
10. **George Benton**, Philadelphia, PA

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Emile Griffith, Weehawken, NJ

1. **Luis Rodriguez**, Miami, FL
2. **Jose Stable**, New York, NY
3. **Brian Curvis**, Wales
4. **Francois Pavilla**, France
5. **Gaspar Ortega**, Mexico
6. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
7. **Stan Hayward**, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Stan Harrington**, Honolulu, HI
9. **Manuel Gonzales**, Odessa, TX
10. **Curtis Cokes**, Dallas, TX



When Doug Jones was rematched with Billy Daniels (left), the stakes were high. Jones was the number one-rated heavyweight, and a match with titlist Cassius Clay was all but guaranteed. But Daniels killed that proposed fight by outpointing Jones at Madison Square Garden (right).

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Eddie Perkins, Chicago, IL

1. **Jose Napoles**, Mexico
2. **Aissa Hashas**, France
3. **Sandro Lopopolo**, Italy
4. **Louis Molina**, San Jose, CA
5. **Tito Marshall**, Panama
6. **Valerio Nunez**, Argentina
7. **Doug Vaillant**, Cuba
8. **Arthur Persley**, Red Crosse, LA
9. **Johnny Depeiza**, Trinidad
10. **Mario Rossito**, Colombia

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: Carlos Ortiz, New York, NY

1. **Dave Charnley**, England
2. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
3. **Bunny Grant**, Jamaica
4. **Angel Garcia**, France
5. **Paul Armstead**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Frankie Narvaez**, New York, NY
7. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
8. **Percy Hayles**, Jamaica
9. **Nicolino Locche**, Argentina
10. **Alfredo Urbina**, Mexico

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: Flash Elorde, Philippines

1. **Johnny Bizzarro**, Erie, PA
2. **Jose Luis Cruz**, Mexico
3. **Willi Quatour**, Germany
4. **Teruo Kosaka**, Japan
5. **Ray Adigan**, Nigeria
6. **Vicente Derado**, Argentina
7. **Love Allotey**, Ghana
8. **Kang Suh Il**, South Korea
9. **Antonio Paiva**, Italy
10. **Auburn Copeland**, Flint, MI

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Sugar Ramos, Mexico

1. **Floyd Robertson**, Ghana
2. **Don Johnson**, Los Angeles, CA
3. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
4. **Howard Winstone**, Wales
5. **Mitsunori Seki**, Japan
6. **Rafiu King**, Nigeria
7. **Vicente Saldivar**, Mexico
8. **Carlos Canete**, Argentina
9. **Antonio Herrera**, Colombia
10. **Raul Rojas**, San Pedro, CA

BANTAMWEIGHTS

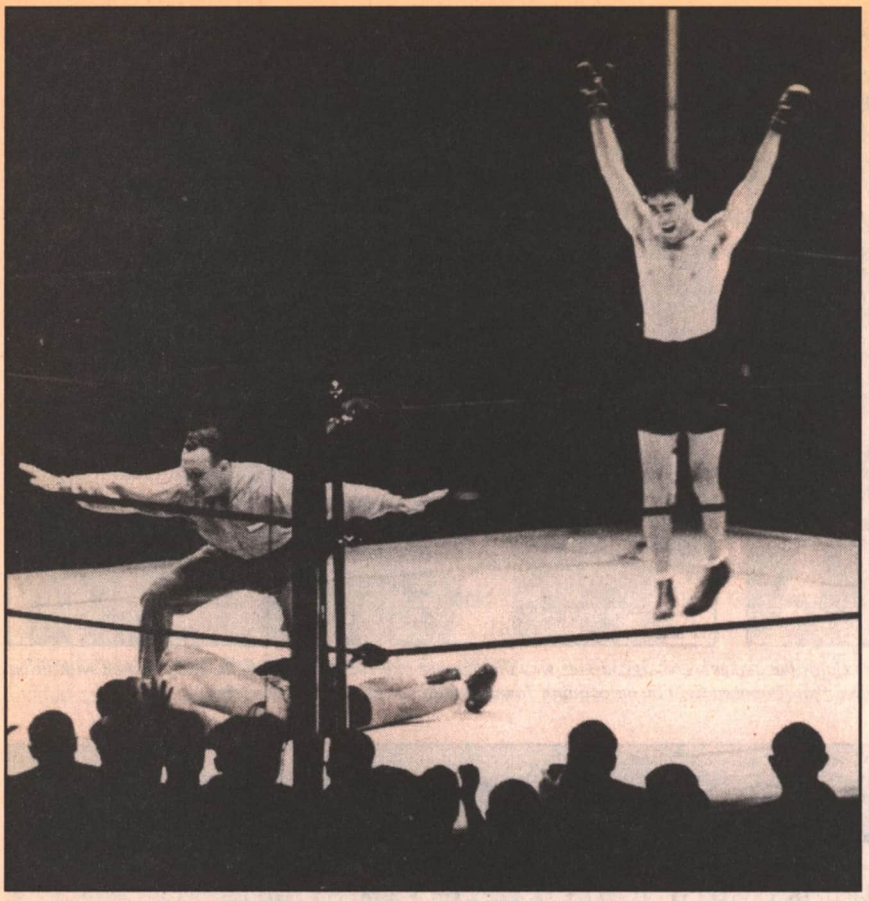
World Champ: Eder Jofre, Brazil

1. **Fighting Harada**, Japan
2. **Ronnie Jones**, Chicago, IL
3. **Joe Medel**, Mexico
4. **Jesus Pimentel**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Ray Asis**, Stockton, CA
6. **Piero Rollo**, Italy
7. **Manuel Barrios**, Mexico
8. **Risto Luukkonen**, Finland
9. **Felix Brami**, Tunisia
10. **Mimun Ben Ali**, Spain

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Pone Kingpetch, Thailand

1. **Hiroyuki Ebihara**, Japan
2. **Salvatore Burruni**, Italy
3. **Horacio Acavallo**, Argentina
4. **Bernardo Caraballo**, Colombia
5. **Efren Torres**, Mexico
6. **Walter McGowan**, Scotland
7. **Takeshi Nakamura**, Japan
8. **Rocky Gattallari**, Australia
9. **Katsuyoshi Takayama**, Japan
10. **Raton Mojica**, Nicaragua



One of the greatest upsets in ring history came in June 1936, when supposedly washed-up former heavyweight champion Max Schmeling pummeled unbeaten sensation Joe Louis en route to a 12th-round kayo win. Nobody expected "The Brown Bomber" to have any trouble with the German.

meanwhile for a match against one Olle Tandberg, little-known Swede, in Stockholm, for July 6, 1947.

Baksi had trouble taking tough foes seriously, so he saw little reason to interrupt his rounds of celebration by working too hard for this obscure Scandinavian. When Tandberg failed to fold in the early rounds, the affair turned into a pushing, mauling, and tugging tussle, with the overconfident American on the short end of one of the most costly decisions in history.

Baksi and millions of others didn't realize that the Louis who returned from World War II was four years older and a far cry from the Louis who answered the call in 1942. There must be considerable doubt that Baksi would have jeopardized his contending status so readily had he not been under the spell of the invincible "Brown Bomber" of pre-war days.

Baksi, properly prepared and confident, might have succeeded against the fading champion had he foregone the Tandberg lure. Had Baksi returned home immediately, signed for Louis, and undergone a conscientious siege of conditioning, the heavyweight championship and a million dollars as the conqueror of Joe Louis might have been his.

Baksi was the second ranking American heavyweight to have been toppled from his high-ranking position by a European disaster. An unlucky 13 years before, in 1934, collegian Steve Hamas, generally considered best of the campus heavyweights, arrived in Berlin to meet Max Schmeling in a return match that had even more drastic consequences. Hamas, a fine all-around athlete from Penn State, had shown surprising ability in the professional ring. He had knocked out the clever light heavyweight Tommy Loughran, and on February 13, 1934, surprised the world by giving former heavyweight king Schmeling a thorough trouncing in Philadelphia.

He then cemented his position as the number-one challenger of Max Baer by turning back big, hard-hitting Art Lasky. Nothing remained but the signing of articles to clinch the big match.

At this point, Jimmy Johnston, then Garden matchmaker, suggested a return Lasky-Hamas setto. The first had been a bitterly contested struggle. This made Hamas' old-line manager, Charley Harvey, so irate that seeking some ways to "punish" James J. for such effrontery, he broke with the Garden and signed to meet Schmeling again in Germany for a $25,000 guarantee.

This was a catastrophic caper. Midway in the match, Hamas' knee, damaged on the football gridiron, gave way on him, and he was subjected to such a fearful beating by Schmeling that the German fans castigated Harvey for permitting the match to last as long as it did. Hamas was so badly hurt that he never fought again.

It was quite a while before he finally recovered from the effects of the terrible pounding. Luckily, his physical comeback was complete enough for him to serve commendably in World War II, where he attained the rank of major.

Jones' experience with Daniels is more comparable to Baksi's than to Hamas', since the winning margin in both cases was razor-thin. But if Doug is looking for inspiration and example in making a recovery from such a setback, he can find it in the saga of the mighty Joe Louis.

The first Joe Louis-Max Schmeling match, in 1936, was strictly extraneous as far as advancing Joe in the heavyweight sweepstakes at that time.

By knocking out Max Baer—who had disposed of Schmeling in 1935—he had completed the erasure of the German from the heavyweight picture. This was a development welcome to many since anti-Nazi sentiment, particularly in New York, affected all Germans over here, including celebrities.

The only reason for the first Louis-Schmeling match was the sizable gate it figured to draw—and the possible humiliation of the German before a partial audience. Schmeling was not only considered as eliminated from title contention, but over-the-hill as well.

Had a Schmeling victory been even remotely anticipated, the match would never have taken place, as Louis' ranking as the next rival for champion Jim Braddock was firmly established.

Schmeling's shocking victory made all manner of machinations and manipulations

mandatory before Louis' way to the title was cleared. It forced Joe to start all over, which, great fighter that he was, he succeeded in doing.

Being number-one heavyweight contender always poses a problem. If the would-be heir-apparent sits tight and waits for the call to come, he runs the risk of rusting back into the ranks of the ordinary fighters.

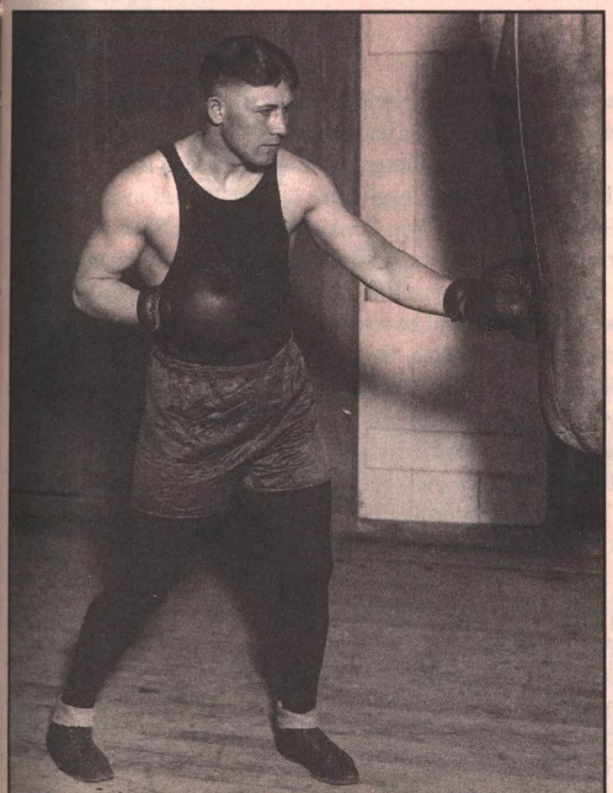
This is what many insist befell Roland LaStarza, who, after his close contest with Rocky Marciano in 1950, waited forlornly for another chance at Rocky until inactivity dulled his fighting edge.

On the other hand, if he tackles all comers, the fate of Jones or Baksi may befall the number-one man. Oldsters recall that had Jack Sharkey been satisfied to limit his ring appearances following his disputed loss to Dempsey in 1927, a title match with Tunney the following year could well have been his, since he was the man the public wanted to see in there with Gene.

Following a draw with Tom Heeney early in 1928, Sharkey took on Johnny Risko, whom he had handled easily in Boston three years before. He came up with a lackadaisical effort against the willing Baker Boy, who hustled him out of the decision.

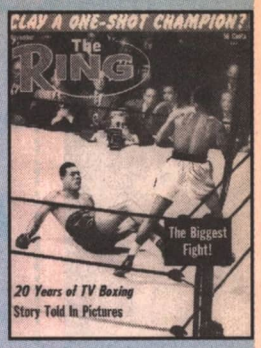
Since Heeney was the opponent Tunney preferred, and the "Hard Rock" had won over Risko in 1927, Tunney got his out in picking the New Zealander, whose style was made to order for the classical Marine. The brilliant but erratic Sharkey had figured to be much more troublesome.

Wait or fight? Either procedure presents a dilemma and is chance-taking. Jones should not be discouraged that his choice of fighting instead of waiting turned out poorly. ■

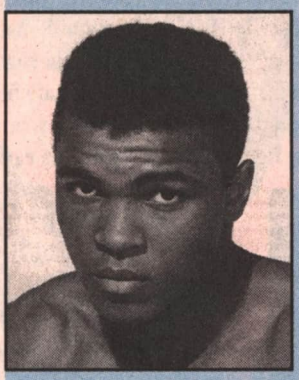


Austrian-born heavyweight Johnny Risko didn't figure to beat the highly regarded Jack Sharkey when they clashed in 1928. However, Risko won a 15-round decision, costing Sharkey a shot at world champion Gene Tunney.

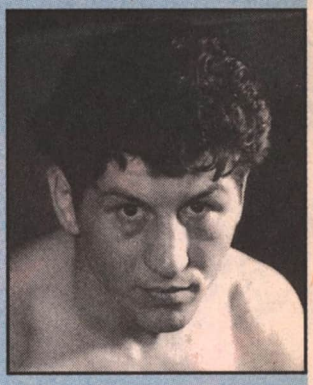
THE RING, November 1964



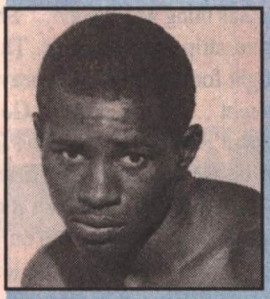
The Cover: A look back at 20 years of televised boxing includes the first Joe Louis-Jersey Joe Walcott heavyweight title fight. "The Brown Bomber" was quite fortunate to escape with a split decision and retain the championship.



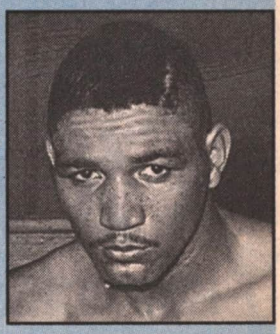
Defense Number One: Will heavyweight champion Cassius Clay turn out to be a one-hit wonder? Despite tons of controversy, the self-proclaimed "Greatest's" first defense will come against the fighter he dethroned, Sonny Liston. Associate Editor Daniel M. Daniel examines the rematch.



It's A Hurricane: Lester Bromberg looks at middleweight champion Joey Giardello, who will make his initial defense against New Jersey's Rubin Carter. Nicknamed "The Hurricane," Carter is coming off a one-round blitz of welterweight king Emile Griffith. "I would like to fight Carter before he learns to fight," explained Giardello.



Have Fists, Will Travel: Some fighters make their living on the road, as Lew Eskin explains. The writer details the careers of road warriors and tough guys Amos Johnson (heavyweight), Adolph Pruitt (lightweight), Tony Montano (middleweight), and Val Anez (lightweight). Pictured is Pruitt.



Fighter Of The Month: Heavyweight Billy Daniels is the choice, based on his shocking upset of number-three contender Doug Jones at Madison Square Garden. Daniels' previous ring appearances, including a ho-hum draw with Hubert Hilton, failed to suggest he was capable of such a victory.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

A GOLDEN FUTURE

Promoter Bob Arum calls it a five-year plan, and it ain't no space odyssey. If Oscar De La Hoya keeps winning, he'll retire in 2001 as a multimillionaire and an all-time great.

De La Hoya, 23, might never again engage in as important a fight as his June 7 showdown with Julio Cesar Chavez. But that doesn't mean he's satisfied. Forget all that talk about "The Golden Boy" returning to school and studying architecture or taking a year off from boxing so he can play 72 holes of golf a day. "I want to fight the best fighters in the world at an early age," he said, "then retire as a young man."

Smart boy.

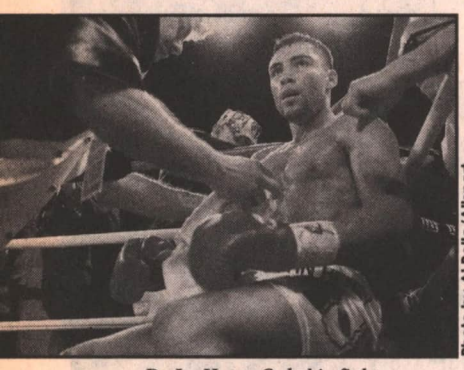


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

De La Hoya: Only big fights

The immediate future, according to Bottom-Line Bob: De La Hoya will defend the WBC super lightweight title in September, probably in Las Vegas, against former lightweight champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez. ("The fight didn't go long enough to find out what Oscar could really do," Gonzalez, 40-0, said of the De La Hoya-Chavez fight.) After that will come a December defense at Madison Square Garden vs. Charles Murray. Then the big one: another rise in weight and a challenge of WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker.

Arum said a rematch with Chavez is also a possibility, perhaps at Azteca Stadium in Mexico City sometime next year. Chavez will fight once or twice before then. How he looks, said Arum, will determine whether he gets a second try at De La Hoya.

In other words, get in line, Julio.

LISTEN UP

As we went to press, **Frank Warren**, the promoter for featherweight sensation **Naseem Hamed**, was en route to a meeting in South Africa with **Nelson Mandela**. Warren and Mandela hope to put together a bout between Hamed and IBF junior featherweight champion **Vuyani Bungu** ... **Frankie Randall** is still hoping for a rubber match with WBA junior welterweight champion **Juan Coggi**. They were scheduled to fight in June, but Coggi pulled out with a sinus infection. "He doesn't want to fight Frankie," said **Peyton Sher**, who advises Randall. "That sinus thing was baloney." Sher believes the only way Coggi will defend against Randall is if the WBA threatens to strip the Argentine. That isn't likely to happen ... Look for **Montell Griffin** and **Mike McCallum** to fight for the WBC light heavyweight title that will be vacated by **Fabrice Tiozzo**, who is jumping to cruiserweight ... With **Chiquita Gonzalez** back in training, the long-awaited rematch with WBC light flyweight champion **Saman Sorjaturong** is likely to materialize ... Newly crowned IBF flyweight champion **Mark Johnson** is likely to make his first defense against either **Melchor Cob Castro** or **Eric Griffin** on ESPN in August. "I wish it could be **Michael Carbajal** or **Johnny Tapia**," he said. Johnson is slated for an appearance on HBO *Boxing After Dark* later this year ... Former flyweight champion **Danny Romero** has left Top Rank for promoter **Cedric Kushner**. Look for him to challenge IBF junior bantamweight champion **Harold Grey** later this year.

Las Vegas Hilton

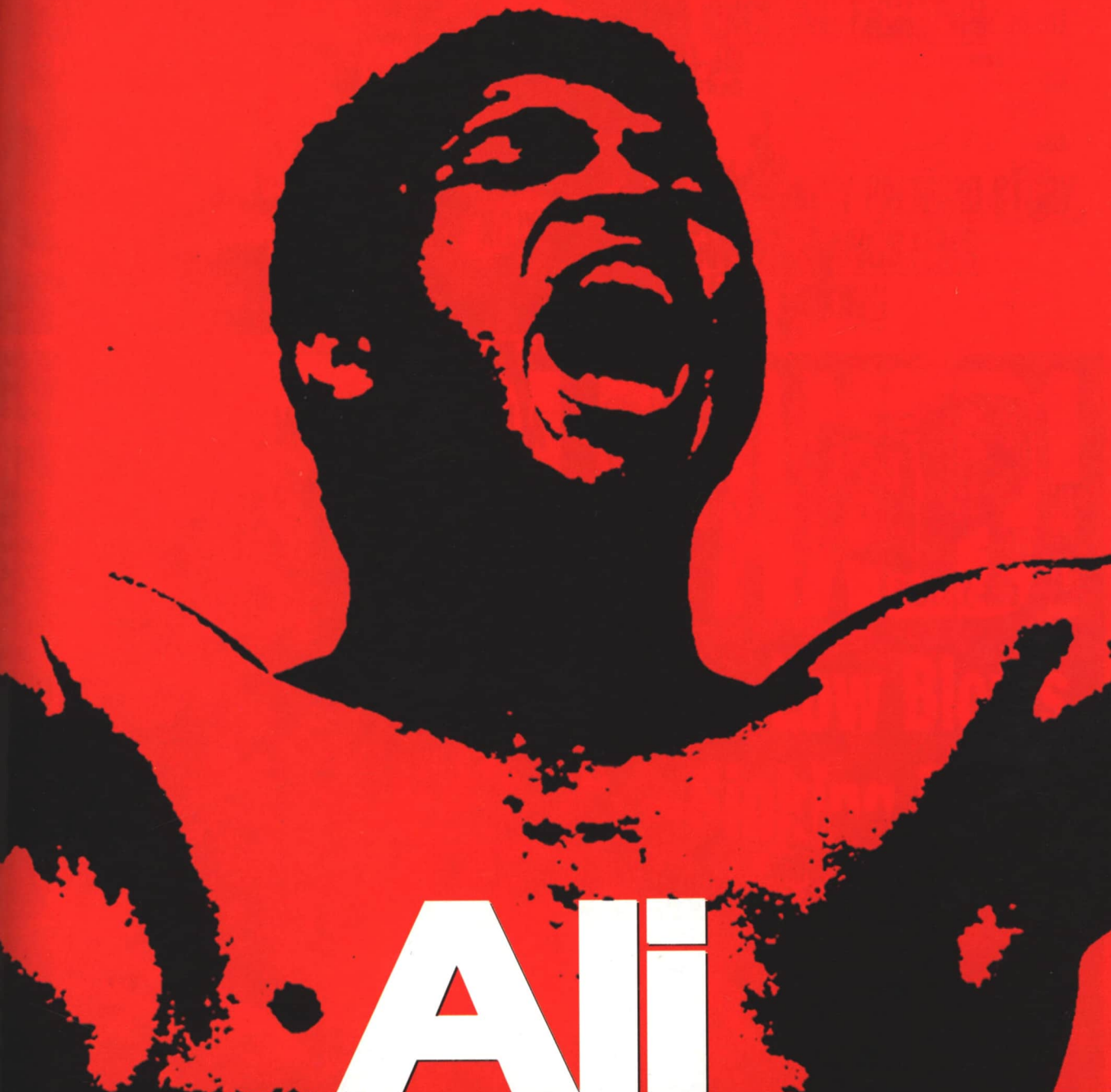
FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Riddick Bowe	Lennox Lewis	4-1	Lewis will never live up to his potential
Oscar De La Hoya	Pernell Whitaker	7-5	Whitaker can't hurt "The Golden Boy"
Oscar De La Hoya	Miguel A. Gonzalez	5-1	Gonzalez' perfect record somewhat deceiving
Tim Witherspoon	Ray Mercer	2-1	Spoon is hot, but Mercer still dangerous
Marco A. Barrera	Kennedy McKinney	7-2	Mexican should win rematch with more ease

A MAN. A FIGHTER. A CHAMPION.



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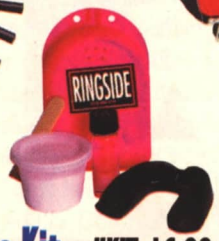

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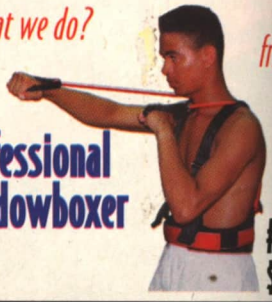

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